

Volunteer Candidate Program at Windham Mountain Ski Patrol

Thank you for being so interested in joining Windham Mountain Ski Patrol.

This letter contains some important information and expectations about our candidate program in general, as well as some dates and plans for this upcoming season.

Please read this carefully, along with the attached job description, and make sure you are willing and able to make the commitment we ask of you. If you are a **student candidate** (under age 18), please read this over **with your parents** as well. Patrolling is a big commitment and requires tremendous time, effort, and dedication, as well as physical labor.

Candidates must provide their own black pants, skis/boards, goggles, gloves, and helmets. We will provide you with a manual, a red jacket or vest, and first aid equipment, as well as a daily radio (which you must sign out). All volunteers must sign in upon entering the locker room in the morning and sign out when leaving in the evening.

Candidates (and all patrol) must be dressed and ready to load the chairlift an hour before opening each day. This means you will need to get here at 6:30 AM on weekends and holidays to be ready by 7:00 AM and at 7:30 AM on non-holiday weekdays to be ready by 8:00 AM.

We work the whole day, which ends after the last patroller is down from sweep (usually around 5 PM). Lunch is provided to our volunteers during each workday. Candidates may not leave or go off to ski or eat with family and friends. Like all patrol, they are on duty all day and should be at the summit building while not out on training or project missions.

Candidates must work through their manuals and get all skills checked off by designated veteran patrollers. Once the manual is completed, candidates may request to take the final patrol test, which the patrol director administers. Candidates who fail the final test are allowed one retake.

Upon passing, the final test, candidates “earn their cross” and become full-fledged patrollers. Student candidates are expected to work through their manuals by the time they reach 18 years of age. Adult candidates are asked to complete their manuals in one season.

Adult candidates who show dedication and make their days but do not complete their manuals in one season may have their candidacy extended to a second season, at the discretion of the patrol director.

We ask for a **minimum 20-day, 1-night commitment** from **all** of our volunteers. These are full days, which means being ready to be on the lift 1 hour prior to mountain opening, and the day is completed when all patrol has cleared the mountain after closing. Although patrol candidates do receive full season passes, they should not be free-skiing or free-riding while they have not fulfilled their commitment or completed their manual. Some candidates may take longer to complete their manuals. It is up to each candidate to be motivated and seek out veteran patrollers to help them work through their skill sheets.

We offer a full Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) course every other year. This season, 2022/2023, we will be offering an OEC class. The course is required for anyone without a current EMT or WFR certification, so next season any candidate that joined this season would be required to take the course. The course fee is **\$60**. It will be online, but there will be required in-person class sessions each weekend throughout the season. You must purchase the Outdoor Emergency Care 6th Edition textbook, which costs about \$90 on Amazon. Those who already have a current EMT or WFR certification may take an OEC Challenge that will be scheduled sometime mid-season. This consists of a written and practical exam and **costs \$60**. National Ski Patrol dues are **\$43**.

If you already have a CPR card and take the CPR recertification during the refresher, that's another **\$15**. Any candidate without a current CPR card must get CPR/AED certified before they can take an OEC challenge or final exam.

Here are some expectations we have of our candidates:

- Candidates must meet all attendance requirements and be punctual.
- Candidates must have a desire to be helpful at all times. They must embrace teamwork and safety as paramount to a successful job.

Candidates must maintain a positive attitude and professional appearance.

- They must also act in a professional manner.
- Candidates must be **expert skiers or snowboarders, capable of skiing or riding comfortably and proficiently on any terrain** Windham has to offer before beginning their candidacy. All candidates will be subject to a ski or ride test at the onset of the season and failure to meet this criterion may result in dismissal from the candidate program.
- Candidates must be hardworking and physically capable to ski, ride, move, and lift equipment as needed. This does not mean we will ask you to strain yourself or perform tasks for which you are not capable of sufficiently trained.
- Candidates must be self-motivated. As a patrol candidate, you must take it upon yourself to learn and do.
- Candidates must be constantly willing to accept any assignment given by training officers or summit dispatchers, subject to the following condition:

Candidates must not accept an assignment that exceeds their physical abilities or for which they have not been trained or lack the experience to perform safely. Our candidates can expect from us:

- Professional instruction from our team of experienced paramedics, EMTs, certified/senior patrollers, and OEC instructors, all dedicated to your success.
- The opportunity to assist on actual incidents on the mountain and in the first aid room, in some cases working alongside doctors and paramedics.
- Individual and group training, including first aid, toboggan handling, skiing, and snowboarding tips, lift evacuation, dispatch operations, trail opening and closing procedures, and many other items.

Please re-read and consider the information above, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Hope to see you soon.

Regards,

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