



JUNIOR INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

Toolkit for Participants & Parents



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Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors

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WELCOME

Ever wonder what it would be like to teach skiing or snowboarding? Here's a great way to find out!

Participate in the Junior Instructor Program, sponsored by the Professional Ski Instructors of America and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA-AASI). Learn what it's like to work as an instructor, even if you have no experience other than knowing how to ski or snowboard.

Completing this nationally-recognized certificate program demonstrates your commitment to providing a great customer experience for guests visiting a ski or ride area, resort, or nordic center.

In Addition, Taking Part In This Program:

- Opens doors to all kinds of jobs in the outdoor industry
- Makes you a better skier or snowboarder
- Keeps you fit all winter long
- Connects you with others who share your snowsports passion
- Helps you develop important career and life skills, such as:
 - + Communication
 - + Dedication
 - + Discipline
 - + Independence
 - + Instruction
 - + Leadership
 - + Group management
 - + Professionalism
 - + Public speaking



Photo courtesy of SOS Outreach

Key Takeaways:

- 1) A solid foundation of skills to help you work in the snowsports industry during and after high school.
- 2) Insight on how to pursue career opportunities in the snowsports industry after high school or a higher-level education program.
- 3) Leadership and public speaking skills that will help you succeed in whatever career you choose to pursue.

To Get Started:

- 1) Connect with a local snowsports school or nordic center.
- 2) Complete PSIA-AASI's minimum program requirements. (See page 4.)
- 3) Complete the school's specific requirements, which may include more extensive training than PSIA-AASI's Junior Instructor Program requires.

MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Work with your local PSIA-AASI Member School to learn more about their specific requirements. Regardless of what school you choose to work with, you'll need to fulfill the following minimum program requirements to receive an official certificate of completion.



- 1) Complete the Junior Instructor Certificate Course on PSIA-AASI's e-learning platform (at lms.thesnowpros.org) by taking and passing the following three online modules:
 - a. Course for New Instructors [one hour]
 - b. Delivering the Beginner Experience (choose one course — alpine, snowboard, or cross country) [one hour]
 - c. Introduction to Working with Children [one hour]
- 2) Complete a 12-hour training course on-snow at a local ski and ride area, resort, or nordic center.
- 3) Shadow six hours of lessons at the area, resort, or nordic center.
- 4) Demonstrate a minimum skiing or snowboarding ability in two areas:
 - a. Must have the ability to maneuver safely in a learning area and around all surface lifts at an area or resort or up/down hills and trails at a nordic center.
 - b. Must show the ability to safely ski or ride in a group on green terrain (beginner/novice area) at an area or resort or up/down hills and trails at a nordic center.
- 5) Complete the course portfolio and have it signed by a snowsports supervisor.
- 6) Write and submit a letter of intent that describes why you want to become a snowsports instructor.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who will teach me at the school?

A: You will be trained by a PSIA-AASI member certified at Level II (or above) in the snowsports discipline that, when possible, matches your skillset (alpine skiing, snowboarding, or cross country skiing). Each school will choose the instructors who deliver the training for this program.

Q: Are there any online components to this program?

A: Yes, PSIA-AASI hosts this entire program through a course on PSIA-AASI's e-learning platform. You'll be able to manage your participation and progress through an online portal.

Q: What's the minimum number of hours I'll spend with a trainer to complete the program?

A: A minimum of 12 hours with your school trainer are required, plus six hours spent shadowing lessons. PSIA-AASI recommends to the schools that are participating in this program that they structure your training to be movement-based, fun, and exciting, so that you're inspired and want to come back to work in the outdoor industry and at your snowsports school one day!

Q: What is required for those 12 hours of on-snow training?

A: The 12 hours of training should be movement-based and model an experiential approach to learning.

Q: How much does this course cost?

A: The course costs \$25. It's up to the school and area or resort to determine if they will subsidize participant costs.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum age range to participate in this certificate program?

A: No, PSIA-AASI does not have a minimum or maximum age range. Setting those parameters for participation is up to each school, resort, or participating program. PSIA-AASI looks to partner with schools in order to offer programming to pre-teens and teens to grow the overall snowsports workforce industry.

Q: What happens after I complete the program?

A: After successfully completing the program, you'll have learned what it's like to work in the snowsports industry. You can add the skills you've learned in this program to your resume and college applications to highlight that you've participated in and completed a national certificate program.

Also, all successful participants receive the following items that signify their achievements in this nationally-recognized program:

- 1) A PSIA-AASI Junior Instructor card for the 2020-21 season.
- 2) A certificate of completion.
- 3) A PSIA-AASI Junior Instructor pin.
- 4) Details on how to become a PSIA-AASI member and pursue a professional pathway in snowsports.

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