



WESTERN DIVISION

Welcome to an overview for the PSIA-W Divisional Trainer Program (DT) and the steps leading to employment with the PSIA-W Education Staff. I am writing this in order to stress a few points at the potential expense of redundancy as you read further. Firstly, note that the DT acts as both a hiring track for PSIA-W Education Staff examiners and clinicians – and alternatively – as a general clinician/staff trainer development course. Even if you have no ambitions to seek employment as a PSIA-W examiner you are still welcome to complete the program. The DT activity outline is annually adapted to best serve attendees given industry changes, pedagogic developments, and overall innovation in the profession; its content has been a work in progress over the years since its inception, and in turn, is regularly updated in its course description. Please understand and be prepared for potential course outline deviation when course leaders deem it beneficial. In sum, this course has been organized to grow the effectiveness of serious educators, clinicians and staff trainers. It must also be stressed that though this course is a prerequisite to PSIA-W Ed Staff employment, it is geared to meet you where you are and provide a productive format from which to work on your personal development as a group leader. Likewise, it is our sincere hope that you will find the overall PSIA-W Education Staff developmental pathway as one of supportive professional mentorship; it is limited from bureaucratic artificiality and designed with the sincerity of helping you meet your objective.

*Yours,
Bryan Schilling
PSIA-W Alpine VP*

Pathway to employment the PSIA-AASI Western Education Training and Certification Staff:

1. Must be a current member in good standing
2. Must be PSIA Certified Level 3
3. Must attend Resort Trainers Series (RTS)
4. Must complete the Divisional Trainers (DT)
5. Submit a 500 word 'technical skiing article' (topic assigned at final day of DT course - emailed to PSIA-W office administration)
6. Schedule a 'shadow' participation with level 1 exam (no cost) and submit 'shadow' reflection form (emailed to PSIA-W office administration)
7. Must have completed Children's Specialist 2
8. Must be legally applicable for general US employment, e.g. working visa, green card
9. Request on-snow interview with current or former PSIA-W Alpine VP (emailed to PSIA-W office administration)
10. Pending successful interview, e.g. skiing performance at PSIA level 3, technical knowledge and peer teaching performance at strong 'resort trainer level', say "yes" if offered position

Divisional Trainer Program

What is it? - A series of intensive trainings that culminate in an accreditation. There are both educational and evaluative components to the course. Explored skills include: group management, leadership, ski/ride mechanics, pedagogy, and technical development. Graduates are invited to continue their training and development through 'shadowing' a level 1 exam and certain educational clinics; they also may be invited to Education Staff trainings. Not merely a 'gateway' to Ed Staff employment, the DT Program is a course of training for the motivated expert looking to get better.

Who is it for? - Those with a current level 3 certification, who have attended the Resort Trainers series and would like to take their clinician skills to the next level, and/or for those who aspire to develop the requisite skills of an examiner. Invaluable for those who are self-motivated, willing to challenge themselves, invite critical feedback, committed to put in the additional time toward deliberate practice, and are ready to work independently to fully realize the outcomes introduced.

When & Where does it take place? – 4 days throughout the season at different resorts, see calendar for schedule dates and locations. Note: you must commit to attend all four days in order to participate.

Why does it exist? - The accreditation was created as a means to foster the continued professional development of the fully certified instructor; it also allows for a developmental pathway for those who aspire to apply for position openings for the PSIA-AASI Western Education Staff.

ALPINE DT Outline

Level 1 is about skills concept, level 2 cause and effect, understanding body performance and ski/ride performance, level 3 is about versatility and DT Program about depth of knowledge.

Break group into pairs. Have everybody watch ski/ride performance and body performance first on the landing of hop turns. Share observations with group. Then on the takeoff maneuver in leapers, share observations with group. Then the shaping phase only of extension retraction turns, share observations with group.

Next have everybody give a 10 to 15 minute clinic to the rest of the group on their weakness, and how to improve upon it. At the end of each clinic a quick discussion about areas needing improvement (pretty consistently this was make sure you chose the drill or movement patterns that best highlights your topic, i.e. to work on precision on blocking pole plants use short swing turns rather than short radius turns) and areas addressed well.

Day two:

Assign a topic to them the morning of based off a large picture weakness in their skiing and have them present a 30-minute clinic to the group. Discuss the differences between a clinic and a lesson, for example how you talk with the group, how you lay out your drills and how you check for understanding. At the end of each clinic discuss how they performed and what they did well and where to improve.

End of day: give everybody goals for clinics and personal skiing to work on before next training days.

Day three:

Have everybody present a 30-minute clinic off the prepared clinic list on DT program handout. Feedback at end of clinic.

Day four:

Have everybody present a 30-minute clinic off the prepared clinic list on DT Program handout. Feedback at end of clinic.

End of day:

Sit down with each person individually and discuss pathway towards ed staff for them. The four areas everybody needs to complete are: CS2, 500 word article of our choosing (designed to make them explore an area of weakness), shadow a level 1 exam, and continue to improve and meet skiing and clinic feedback. If seeking employment, upon completion of all said requirements, request an interview with Alpine VP by emailing PSIA-W office.

Pathway for Emeritus to return to Education Staff:

1. Be a member in Good Standing
2. Attend Ed Staff Training (if applicable given timing of inquiry)
3. Write letter of intent to office/Alpine VP (emailed to PSIA-W office administration) - Office will send the information to the Education Steering Committee and Discipline VP.
4. Schedule an interview with Alpine VP (emailed to PSIA-W office administration)