

Edmonton Ski Club - Apprentice Instructor Program

The Apprentice Instructor Program at Edmonton Ski Club is a volunteer based program for youths (ages 13-15) to develop their skiing/snowboarding skills, learn more about the ski and snowboard industry, and gain experience in leadership positions. This opportunity includes learning from and assisting our excellent team of certified ski and snowboard instructors throughout the winter season.

This program provides a fun environment and opportunities to learn and lead. Apprentice instructors will gain hands-on experience that will support their futures in the winter sport industry and in other areas of life.

Requirements

- Enthusiasm and interest in skiing and snowboarding
- Willing to learn and lead
- Available for a minimum of 10 volunteer apprentice shifts of between December 13th to March 28th
- Attendance to orientation/training shifts (counted towards volunteering hours)

Program Progression

As Apprentices start feeling more confident over the course of the program, they will have the opportunity to take on a more active role in teaching lessons. Throughout the program, mentor instructors will provide tips and constructive feedback to foster and support growth.

Step 1: Observation

During their first shifts, they will shadow their mentor instructors as they teach lessons. This will allow Apprentices to get comfortable with the instructing environment.

Step 2: Co-teaching a small section of the lesson

Once they feel familiar with lessons, Apprentices are encouraged to assist their mentor instructors in teaching parts of a lesson. This can include demonstrating new movements or describing new skills, brainstorming teaching ideas, and/ or supporting students.

Step 3: Independently teaching a small section of the lesson Once the Apprentices have gained experience observing and co-teaching lessons, they may try to teach a small section of the lesson independently with the supervision and support of their mentor instructors.

Perks of the Program

Skill Development Sessions

To further develop instructing skills, the Apprentices will be invited to attend free skill development sessions. These sessions are run by instructors for instructors to support their continued growth and further develop their teaching and riding skills. Sessions will be offered daily on the weekends when lesson programming allows and will run for about an hour each day.

Season Pass

At the start of the season, Apprentice families will purchase an **individual season pass** for the apprentice. As part of the Apprentice program, Apprentices will receive all of the associated benefits of being a staff member, including but not limited to: full lift access for the season, 20% off food, beverages, and merchandise, and reciprocal deals with associated resorts. Apprentice season passes will be refunded at the end of the season based on completion of all shifts and Apprentice remaining in good standing.

Team

Apprentices will have a small team at Edmonton Ski Club around to support them. If they have any questions or concerns they may bring them to any of the parties below.

- **Snow School Director or Supervisors:** Snow School Director and supervisors will help create Apprentice volunteer schedules and will be a main point of contact regarding all shifts. Snow School Director or Supervisors can also answer questions about instructing and the Apprentice program itself.
- **Mentor Instructors:** Mentor Instructors will be helping Apprentices build skills and confidence in instructing. Apprentices will spend most of their shift alongside their mentor instructor. Mentor Instructors are a great source for the Apprentices to ask questions about instructing, skiing and snowboarding, or anything specific they have observed while volunteering.

- **Managers:** Managers can be contacted if Apprentices cannot reach their mentor instructors or Snow School Management.

What to expect in a typical Apprentice shift

- Apprentices will find their scheduled shifts on our Homebase Scheduling platform
- Apprentices will arrive between 8: 30am and 8: 45am, to boot up and attend the morning organizational meeting; where they will learn who their Mentor Instructor(s) will be for the day and what lessons they have been assigned during their shift.
- Once the morning meeting has finished, Apprentices will be asked to either assist in the setup of the weekend learning areas, or prepare for their first lesson assignment.
- If Apprentices do not have a lesson assigned to them first thing in the morning, they will be asked/encouraged to join in the morning Instructor Development Session. Apprentices will ride with the session group for about an hour, and then head inside to prepare for their first lesson,
- While Apprentices will have breaks and down time in between lessons, there may not necessarily be a regularly scheduled lunch break. It is recommended that Apprentices bring lunch with them (as we do not have a cafeteria on the premises) and snacks that they can eat while on snow waiting for a lesson to begin or while they are in between lessons.
- Apprentices will assist their Mentor Instructors with their assigned lessons for the duration of the day and finish their day around 3:00 pm
- If any Apprentices are not assigned to a lesson start time or are not assigned to a task, they will be assigned to another Development session.

Cold Weather Policy

Edmonton Ski Club's cold weather policy states that should temperatures be -26C (without windchill) or colder at the scheduled time of opening for that day, Edmonton Ski Club may decide to postpone lessons and limit operations. This decision to postpone and / or limit operations is made on a daily basis according to the weather conditions as are noted at Edmonton Ski Club