

ESC's Junior Apprentice Instructor Program

The Junior Apprentice Instructor (JAI) Program is a volunteer based program for youths (ages 13-17) to develop their skiing/snowboarding skills, learn more about the ski and snowboard industry, and gain experience in leadership positions. This volunteer opportunity includes learning from and assisting our awesome team of certified ski and snowboard instructors throughout the winter season.

This program provides a fun environment and opportunities to learn and lead. JAIs will gain hands-on experiences that will support their futures in the skiing and snowboarding industry and in other areas of life.

Requirements

- Enthusiasm and interest in skiing and snowboarding
- Willing to learn and lead
- Available for a total of at least 10 hours of volunteering from December 1st to March 28th
- Attendance to orientation/training shifts (counted towards volunteering hours)

Program Progression

As JAIs 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 support growth.

Step 1: Observation

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

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

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

Step 3: Independently teaching a small section of the lesson

After JAIs 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 JAIs' instructing skills, they 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 1 to 2 hours in duration and will run approximately 1 to 2 times per month depending on availability of session leaders and how busy the hill is.

Season Pass

JAIs will receive a free season pass to Edmonton Ski Club and all of the associated benefits including but not limited to: full lift access for the season, 20% off food, beverages, and merchandise, and reciprocal deals with associated resorts.

Team

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

- **Snow School Coordinators:** Snow School Coordinators will help create JAIs volunteer schedules and will be a main point of contact regarding JAI shifts. Snow School Coordinators can also answer questions about instructing and the JAI program itself.
- **Mentor Instructors:** Mentor Instructors will be helping JAIs build skills and confidence in instructing. JAIs will spend most of their shift alongside their mentor instructor. Mentor Instructors are a great source for JAIs to ask questions about instructing, skiing and snowboarding, or anything specific they have observed while volunteering.
- **Managers:** Managers can be contacted if JAIs cannot reach or are not comfortable reaching out to their mentor instructors or snow school coordinators.