

Chapter 10 AWARDS PROGRAM

10.1 NSP Awards

The NSP has a system of awards designed to recognize and reward its patrollers for outstanding service in individual events and for extended service to the association. The national awards program may be supplemented on the Division, Region, Section, or NSP patrol level. Many of the awards can be made at any time during the year. NSP officers are reminded that for all awards, except the national outstanding awards, a minimum of 45 days, from receipt in the national office, is needed to process the award.

10.2 Appointments (National and Leadership Commendation)

Intent: A Patroller with an Appointment is an individual who has demonstrated leadership, good character, diplomacy, a positive attitude, good judgment, exemplary qualities of patrolling ability, a genuine desire to serve the skiing public, and extraordinary service to the NSP. Receiving an Appointment is not something for which a Patroller—volunteer or paid—can work or plan. A Patroller does not apply for an Appointment. The Appointment should be overdue rather than premature, but tenure alone is never an adequate criterion. To obtain this classification, a Patroller must be nominated. An Appointment is not intended to be a retirement award.

10.2.1 Common Qualifications

A patroller who is nominated for an Appointment must meet the following qualifications:

- A. Must have served a minimum of eight ski seasons as an active patroller of the National Ski Patrol.
- B. A minimum of 12 months must have elapsed since completing all requirements for NSP Senior or NSP Certified classification.

C. Must have demonstrated leadership that benefits the NSP. Address all that apply:

1. by serving at Section, Region, Division or national levels, OR
 2. by serving two or more ski seasons as an instructor in a program that is beneficial to the NSP, OR
 3. by exceptional performance as an NSP Patrol Representative.
- D. Should have demonstrated leadership abilities in working with the skiing public as related to skier safety education.

E. A patroller may receive only one Appointment.

10.2.2 Leadership Commendation Appointment Qualifications

A. Nominees for the Leadership Commendation who are registered as Auxiliary must have been an active Senior Auxiliary Patroller for at least one year before nomination.

B. Nominees for the Leadership Commendation Appointment who are registered as Patrollers must have completed Senior Scene Management and four additional options from the Senior elective list at least one year before nomination.

10.2.3 National Appointment Qualifications

A. Nominees for the National Appointment must have been an active Senior Alpine or Nordic Patroller or Certified Patroller for at least one year before nomination.

10.2.4 Nomination Procedure Requirements

A. The Appointment nominee must be nominated on an Appointment Award Form accompanied by a letter of recommendation that is submitted by an active NSP patroller with an Appointment.

B. The Appointment of a Patroller registered through the Professional Division may be submitted or processed through either the Professional Division or a geographic Division in the system. NSP Policies and Procedures 112 09/10

C. The Appointment nominee must be approved by the nominee's NSP Patrol Representative, Section Chief, Region Director, Division Director, and a review board as applicable. Professional patroller nominations submitted through the geographic division require the approval of both the geographic and Professional Division Directors. In lieu of the Professional Division Director approval, approval may alternately be obtained from the respective volunteer Patrol Representative. (The Division Director may delegate the authority, for overseeing the procedure, to a Division awards adviser; however, this does not relieve the Division Director of the final responsibility for approving fully qualified and deserving nominees.)

D. Each officer must sign his or her approval on the nomination form, except in those cases where the officer is the nominee. All signatures on the form should be from different individuals.

E. If the nomination is rejected at any step, the nomination, along with the reason for rejection, must be returned (in writing) to the sponsor within 30 days, with a copy sent to all in the review chain below, as well as one step above the rejecting party. (See Section 10.13, *Award Rejection/Appeal Process (except Outstanding Awards) for appeal process*).

F. Professional ski patrols that certify skill levels in-house, versus participation in a formal NSP course or evaluation, must provide a training checklist or job description certifying those skill levels and describing them in detail. The professional patrol delegate must be satisfied, and stipulate in a letter of support, that the nominee's skill standards meet or exceed the Senior Patroller skill level in that geographic Division and that the nominee meets the Appointment criteria in all other ways.

G. The nomination of a patroller for Appointment must occur without the nominee's knowledge.

10.2.5 The nomination review board must consist of at least three active patrollers with Appointments who have been appointed to the board according to Division policy. The term of membership

on a review board should be two years, subject to reappointment for successive terms, and terms should be staggered to assure continuity.

10.2.6 When the nomination has been approved at the Division level, the original nomination form and the letter of recommendation from the sponsor must be forwarded by the Division Director or the Division awards adviser to the National Awards Coordinator, who reviews and forwards to the national office for processing.

10.2.7 The national office then sends the Appointment certificate, card, pin, and acknowledgment card to the Division Director, Division awards adviser, or to the appropriate designated individual according to each Division's custom for presentation.

10.2.8 Presentation of an Appointment must be made at a special occasion by the highest officer in attendance (a Region Director or higher officer or designee).

10.2.9 The recipient must mail the signed card to the national office for the Appointment and number to become valid.

10.2.10 The Appointment is for life; however, if a patroller with an Appointment discredits the honor of the NSP, the Appointment will be revoked and the individual will be asked to relinquish the Appointment insignia.

10.2.11 The Appointment number is not transferable.

10.3 Distinguished Service Award

Intent: The Distinguished Service Award may be given to individuals who have performed extraordinary service to the National Ski Patrol and the skiing public over a long period of time (minimum is 20 years). This is distinguished by exceptional devotion to duty and outstanding performance.

10.3.1 The Distinguished Service Award may be used to recognize patrollers who have made excellent contributions to the system regardless of whether or not they have an Appointment. A patroller is the recipient of this award only once.

10.3.2 The Distinguished Service Award also may be presented to individuals or an organization, not affiliated with the NSP Policies and Procedures 113 09/10

National Ski Patrol, for outstanding contributions to the NSP. An example would be to recognize a ski area manager who has strongly supported the NSP for many years (no minimum specified) and has contributed significantly to the achievement of NSP goals.

10.3.3 The Distinguished Service Award

Nomination Form must be used for this award. The nomination and approval procedures are the same as those for an Appointment.

10.3.4 Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award who are patrollers of the NSP will be given a plaque and a sweater pin engraved with the DSA insignia. Recipients outside the NSP will be given a certificate and a plaque engraved with the DSA insignia.

10.3.5 Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award must be made at a special occasion by the highest officer in attendance (a Region Director or higher officer or designee), and persons closely associated with the award recipient should be invited to attend.

10.4 Meritorious Service Award

Intent: The Meritorious Service Award is to be given to active patrollers of the National Ski Patrol who have completed extraordinary and outstanding service and leadership as a Region or Division staff member (Region Director or Division Director ineligible). A staff member is defined as a Region or Division program supervisor, adviser or coordinator or other core administrative positions (treasurer, legal counsel, registrar, alumni, etc.). This award is intended to fit between the Yellow Merit Star and the Distinguished Service Award in level of importance.

10.4.1 Qualification requirements

A. This award can be presented only to Region and Division staff members.

B. Must have served a minimum of three continuous years in a Region or Division staff position.

C. Must have demonstrated leadership and outstanding performance while performing the staff position.

D. An individual is normally the recipient of this award only once.

E. This award is not intended for national-level staff.

F. A Patroller who has already been given a Yellow Merit Star for Service is not eligible for a Meritorious Service Award for the same period of service.

10.4.2 Nomination requirements

A. The request for this award must be on the approved form and requires a sponsoring letter.

B. A nomination for the Meritorious Service Award must be sponsored by a Division or Region Director.

C. Approvals required are Region or Division Director and Division awards advisers.

10.4.3 Presentation

A. Recipients of the Meritorious Service Award will receive a certificate and a pin.

B. A Region Director or higher officer or designee must make presentation of the Meritorious Service Award at a special occasion.

10.5 Merit Stars

10.5.1 Merit Star Nomination Procedure

A. To nominate an NSP Patroller for a merit star award, the Nomination for NSP Merit Star Award Form must be filled out completely and appropriate support material attached. Gold and Silver Merit Stars are automatically issued to the individual recipients and runners-up of national outstanding awards.

B. The national office will send the merit star certificate to the Division Director, Division awards adviser, or other person who has been designated to present the award.

C. The National Awards Coordinator has the authority to change the type of merit star being applied for and the wording on the form after consultation with the Division Director or Division awards adviser.

D. Presentation of merit star awards must be made at a special occasion by the highest NSP officer in attendance (a Region Director or higher officer or designee).

E. All merit star nominations must be submitted within two years of the event or service being recognized.

10.5.2 Gold Merit Star

The Gold Merit Star is awarded annually to the National Outstanding Alpine Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Nordic Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Young Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Professional Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller, National Outstanding Administrative Patroller, National Outstanding OEC Instructor, National Outstanding non-OEC Instructor and National Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative .

10.5.3 Silver Merit Star

The Silver Merit Star is awarded annually to the runner-up to the National Outstanding Alpine Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Nordic Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Young Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Professional Ski Patroller, National Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller, National Outstanding Administrative Patroller, National Outstanding OEC Instructor, National Outstanding non-OEC Instructor, and the National Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative.

10.5.4 Purple Merit Star

Intent: The Purple Merit Star is given for saving a human life through emergency care and the use of ski patrol skills. The Purple Merit Star is awarded to NSP Patrollers who individually save or are primarily responsible, in conjunction with others, for saving a human life. This may be accomplished by rendering emergency care to someone who has been stricken by a sudden illness or accident. The Purple Merit Star may be presented regardless of where the lifesaving act was performed, provided the patient lives for approximately 24 hours after EMS takes over responsibility and emergency care was accomplished under the sole responsibility of Patrollers.

A. The Purple Merit Star may be presented regardless of where the lifesaving act was performed, provided the emergency care was accomplished under the sole direction and sole responsibility of Patroller(s). Patrollers who are under the direction of another group (e.g., search and rescue, American Red Cross, military) do not qualify for a Purple Merit Star, nor do individuals who perform the life saving act while on duty in the course of their normal occupations (e.g., ambulance crew, firefighter, etc.) unless that occupation is ski patrolling.

B. The nomination must be accompanied by a signed statement from an attending physician or, in the physician's absence, any higher medical authority (preferably a paramedic or nurse) that can substantiate that the Patroller's actions primarily contributed to saving a life.

C. In the event the nominator is unable to obtain the statements as required in 10.5.4 B, a letter from the nominee's Division Medical Adviser attesting that, in their professional opinion based on the existing documentation supporting the case, the Patroller's actions were primarily responsible for saving a life will suffice. All other documentation describing the event must also be included in the submission.

10.5.5 Blue Merit Star

Intent: The Blue Merit Star is awarded to NSP Patrollers for outstanding or crucial support roles using emergency care and ski patrol skills in an attempt to save a human life, but whose efforts have not met the Purple Merit Star criteria; that is, life was not sustained for the minimum 24 hours or the nominee is not individually or primarily responsible for the effort. The emergency care must be accomplished under the sole responsibility of the patrollers. This award also may be presented to NSP Patrollers for outstanding service in support roles associated with the Purple Merit Star.

A. A Blue Merit Star in association with a Purple Merit Star requires the same merit star submission as a Purple Merit Star. NSP Policies and Procedures 115 09/10

B. The Blue Merit Star not associated with a Purple Merit Star requires its own letter of recommendation describing the incident but does not require medical documentation.

C. Individuals who perform life saving acts while on duty in the course of their normal occupations (e.g. ambulance crew, firefighter) do not qualify for a Blue Merit Star unless that occupation is ski patrolling.

10.5.6 Green Merit Star

Intent: The Green Merit Star is awarded to NSP Patrollers for an outstanding act of heroism that does not meet the lifesaving requirements of the Purple Merit Star. It is given for arduous and/or hazardous rescue work in which the recipient uses ski patrol training (e.g., at ski areas, air crashes, and mountain rescue situations, etc.).

A. A letter of recommendation must accompany the nomination from the NSP Patrol Representative or higher officer. Supporting material such as newspaper clippings and statements from government offices and from any person who can attest to the Patroller's actions also should be included.

B. Individuals who perform a heroic rescue attempt while on duty in the course of their normal occupations (e.g., ambulance crew, firefighter, etc) are not eligible for this award unless that occupation is ski patrolling.

10.5.7 Yellow Merit Star

Intent: The Yellow Merit Star is awarded to NSP Patrollers for any outstanding act or service to the National Ski Patrol. This award also may be presented to NSP Patrollers for outstanding service in significant support roles associated with the Purple, Blue, or Green Merit Star.

A. To maintain the value of the Yellow Merit Star, it should not be given too freely. The Yellow Merit Star is not awarded for local services or functions (e.g., bake sales, ski swaps, t-shirt sales, repairing toboggans, painting aid rooms, etc.). These examples can be recognized with the National, Division or local Certificate of Appreciation.

B. A letter of recommendation and any appropriate supporting material should accompany the nomination.

C. An NSP Patroller may receive more than one Yellow Merit Star, but each act or administrative duty must be unrelated to any prior receipt of the award and must have relevance to the National Ski Patrol.

10.6 Patroller's Cross

10.6.1 The Patroller's Cross may be awarded, upon approval of the Division Director or Division awards adviser, to a patroller who is seriously injured in one of the following categories:

A. During training and/or scheduled on-the-hill duty under the direction of area management.

B. While performing search and rescue activities under the direction of a recognized authority.

C. While performing avalanche control work under the direction of area management.

D. While performing lift evacuation under the direction of area management.

10.6.2 The definition of a serious injury is an injury requiring physician care over a long period of time, surgery, extended rehabilitation, and/or lost work time.

10.6.3 The request for this award must be on the approved form with the required documentation. A patroller can receive this award more than once.

10.7 National Outstanding Awards

Intent: Annually, the National Ski Patrol may award the following awards to NSP patrols and individual NSP patrollers whose nominations have been submitted by a Division Director or designee. A Division may submit only one nomination for each award. All national outstanding awards will be called by their descriptive names, and only the trophy will carry the name of an individual who has made significant contributions to the NSP (i.e., a National Chair) for whom it is named. The national trophies are kept on display at the national office with the winners names attached. The winners will also receive a trophy and NSP Policies and Procedures 116 09/10

appropriate certificate. A winner of a national outstanding award, either an individual or patrol, cannot reapply for any outstanding award for the following four seasons. No one individual may be nominated for more than one outstanding award in any one year.

10.7.1 Nomination Procedures for National Outstanding Awards

A. Nominees for national outstanding awards may be winners in Division selection procedures and must be sponsored by a Division Director.

B. No information dating back more than four years, including the current season, may be used in the nomination.

C. If a nominee has service as a dually registered volunteer and paid patroller and is nominated for any award other than Outstanding Paid Patroller, the nomination must be considered on the merits of the volunteer service and experience alone.

D. Nominations are prepared by completing the appropriate forms. The completed form with all required signatures and any attachments must be received in the national office by June 1 each year unless a different date is set by agreement of a majority of the National Awards Committee.

E. The National Outstanding Awards Judges are responsible for determining the winners of the national outstanding awards. The national office sends each judge all the nominations received in a single category as assigned. Each judge then sends his or her summary of point totals for each nominee to the national office; the National Awards Coordinator will tally the results. The National Awards Coordinator then will release the winners' names to all the Division awards advisers. How and when each winner is notified is left to the decision of each Division.

F. The winner of an individual outstanding award is awarded a Gold Merit Star certificate and is authorized to have a Gold Merit Star engraved on the NSP name bar. The runner-up receives a Silver Merit Star certificate and may have a

C. Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol

Silver Merit Star engraved on the NSP name bar.

All other nominees will receive a Yellow Merit Star certificate and may have a Yellow Merit Star engraved on the NSP name bar.

G. All registered (primary and secondary) patrollers of an outstanding ski patrol award shall receive a pin.

H. Refer to Division policy and procedures for submission schedule for awards at the Division level.

10.7.2 Outstanding Ski Patrol Awards

Intent: In determining the number of patrollers registered with a ski patrol, all patrollers who are registered as primary and secondary registrants shall be included in the total membership count for this award. Nominations for Outstanding Patrol shall only be accepted from a single patrol registered with the NSP. If there are two or more separately registered patrols at the same area/resort (i.e., geographic Division registrant, alpine or Nordic patrol registrant or Professional Division registrant), only the members and achievements of one patrol will be considered per nomination.

A. Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol

This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Large Alpine Ski Patrol (41 or more members). It is selected from among nominations sent by Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Friends of Minnie Dole Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. Outstanding Small Alpine Patrol

This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Small Alpine Ski Patrol (40 or fewer members). It is selected from among nominations sent by Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Friends of Minnie Dole Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol selected from among nominations sent by Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Ronald Ricketts Outstanding Nordic Ski Patrol Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

10.7.3 Outstanding Alpine Patroller Award

A. This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Volunteer Alpine Patroller selected from among nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The William R. Judd Outstanding Alpine Ski Patroller Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. Any active volunteer Alpine Patroller is eligible, except Young Patrollers (see 10.7.6), Auxiliary Patrollers, or those eligible for the Outstanding Administrative Awards or the Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative Award, or those who hold offices or positions at or above the NSP Patrol Representative level.

10.7.4 Outstanding Nordic Ski Patroller Award

A. This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Volunteer Nordic Ski Patroller selected from among nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Donald C. Williams Outstanding Nordic Ski Patroller Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. Any active volunteer Nordic Patroller is eligible, except Young Patrollers, Auxiliary Patrollers, or those eligible for the Outstanding Administrative Awards or the Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative Award, or those who hold offices at or above the NSP Patrol Representative level.

10.7.5 Outstanding Young Patroller Award

A. This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Young Patroller volunteer selected from among nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Edward F. Taylor Outstanding Student Ski Patroller Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. Any volunteer NSP Patroller may be nominated if no greater than 19 years of age on June 1st in the year nominated.

10.7.6 Outstanding Paid Ski Patroller Award

A. This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Paid Ski Patroller selected from nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Harry G. Pollard Outstanding Paid Ski Patroller Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. Any patroller who is registered as a Paid Patroller is eligible for this award

10.7.7 Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller Award

A. This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller volunteer selected from among nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Charles C. Haskins Outstanding Auxiliary Patroller Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. Any active Auxiliary Patroller volunteer is eligible for this award, except those who are eligible for the Outstanding Administrative Awards, the Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative Award, or who hold a position or office at or above the level of NSP Patrol Representative.

10.7.8 Outstanding OEC Instructor Award

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A. This award is presented each year to a volunteer patroller who has been an NSP instructor in Outdoor Emergency Care. The nominations are sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Warren Bowman Outstanding OEC Instructor Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. The intent of this award is to cover the OEC education discipline only.

C. The recipient must have been a volunteer certified OEC instructor for at least three ski seasons and actively instructed for the last two seasons.

D. Any volunteer NSP patroller is eligible to receive this award.

10.7.9 Outstanding non-OEC Instructor Award

A. This award is presented each year to a volunteer patroller who has been an NSP instructor in any of the NSP educational programs, other than OEC. The nominations are sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Roger Langley Outstanding Non-OEC Instructor Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. This award is given to cover all NSP education disciplines other than OEC.

C. The recipient must have been a volunteer certified instructor in a non-OEC discipline for at least three ski seasons and actively instructed for the last two seasons.

D. Any volunteer NSP patroller is eligible to receive the award.

10.7.10 Outstanding Patrol Representative Award

A. This award is presented each year to the Outstanding Volunteer NSP Patrol Representative selected from among those nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator.

B. Any active volunteer NSP Patrol Representative or one who has served in the position during the immediately preceding season is eligible.

10.7.11 Outstanding Administrative Patroller Award

A. This award is presented each year to a volunteer patroller who has made an outstanding administrative contribution to the NSP beyond the patrol level. The winner is selected from nominations sent by the Division Directors or designees to the national office and approved by the National Awards Coordinator. The Outstanding Administrative Patroller Award is inscribed on the trophy that is kept on display at the national office.

B. The nominee may be a Section Chief, Region Director, and Region or Division supervisor/adviser. If the individual is eligible for

the Outstanding NSP Patrol Representative Award, the person cannot be considered for this award.NSP Policies and Procedures 119 09/10

