

North Central Region of National Ski Patrol Senior Program Report, 2020

The North Central Region Senior Program was a great success. This document highlights the training and evaluation sites, the region's hill engagement, the program's success, and challenges and Improvement for this program.

Site Location

This year's events were successful in many ways. The initial clinics were held at Ski Brule in mid January with the season evaluation being held at Indian Head resort in late February.

Hill Engagement

We had eleven participants in the program this year, *one* from Ski Brule's patrol, *five* from Granite Peak's patrol, and *five* from Mont Ripley's patrol. Many other hills were represented through TE's, IT's, train support, or as injured guests. These hills include Big Powderhorn, Black Jack and Indian Head, Granite Peak, Ski Brule, Marquette Mountain, Mont Ripley, Navorino, as well as support from South Central Region. This totalled over 40 volunteers for the weekend.

Success in Program

With the concept of "improvement" vs. "provement" the program was again a success. Eight candidates completed the evaluation for S/T and OEC. Two candidates completed the OEC MSP and are returning for S/T next year, and one candidate will be returning to complete all aspects of the program.

Challenges and Improvements

With input and reflection some changes in our procedures are needed. It is a general fact that the ski hills in our area are much busier on Saturdays than Sundays. Couple this with complaints heard at the event we need to investigate swapping evaluation days between OEC and S/T. On Saturday too many "Red Jackets" were choking off main and favored runs. We might also consider wearing alternate color jackets if we are not handling toboggans. OEC takes a smaller footprint and may impact the general public less.

Additional suggestion from T/Es is to hold the training clinics at the hill to be used for evaluation. It was hoped that senior candidates would take it upon themselves to explore the evaluation hill after the clinic, but this hasn't been the case.