



## New Associate Patrol Designation

### Q&A

August 2024

#### Introduction

Currently, there are two ways to join the National Ski Patrol as a non-traditional member under “Associate.” The first is to be part of an Affiliate organization and the second is tied to geographic division roster. We are now introducing a third – which is to join on an Associate Patrol roster.

By adding the new Associate Patrol roster (under the X division), we aim to establish National Ski Patrol (NSP) as the definitive home and membership association for ALL patrollers. By implementing a new Associate Patrol designation, NSP will potentially expand its membership pool and increase dues revenue, thereby enhancing our ability to adapt to the evolving environment and growing demand for patrollers. It is a way to gain and retain patrols that have implemented a requirement for EMT and higher certifications.

#### Adhering to our policies

This new patrol designation for Associate members aligns with the existing requirements stipulated in the *Policies and Procedures*.

#### Why now?

Increasingly, ski areas and other recreational entities are seeking or accepting patrollers with diverse first response credentials, either with or in place of OEC certification. Introducing a specific membership classification for this group provides them with official NSP membership, thereby maintaining a connection between NSP and the areas that employ these patrollers.

Our recreation area partners have expressed a clear desire for the inclusion of credentialed, non-OEC first responders in our membership. We have lost partners due to the absence of a membership pathway for these alternatively credentialed first responders. By creating this classification under Associate member, we have a clear pathway to potentially reinstating these partnerships.

#### Justification

Without this member classification and the active promotion of membership to this group, NSP risks continued loss of recreation area partners. These partners are reluctant to incur the additional costs and time required to have already trained responders acquire an additional credential. This creates an environment of competition rather than inclusion. Our intention is to work with area partners to better address their needs and enable them to lead their patrols they see fit, while maintaining their NSP partnership.

This inclusion will only benefit NSP. Incorporating first responders who do not possess OEC into our membership will foster reciprocal learning. These non-OEC credentialed members will gain insights into NSP's training programs, and NSP will benefit from understanding the unique perspectives and skills these first responders bring, allowing us to enhance the value we offer to them. This gives area operators more flexibility and patrollers more exposure to the benefits of NSP membership. While we believe this could have positive impact on NSP's revenue, this is not intended to be a major new revenue stream, but it is intended to give ski areas a choice.

### Additional Considerations

This change will not affect the current requirement for credentialed first responders to achieve OEC certification to qualify as Traditional members or Patrollers. Area management retains the discretion to establish their own local membership requirements and to decide how to integrate and employ these Associate members effectively.

Implementing this change does not necessitate extensive technical or staff support, ensuring a smooth transition and minimal disruption to existing operations. However, we do recommend revisiting this classification every year and adjusting accordingly.

### Who is eligible?

- Any active patrollers with qualifying credentials. Currently, we are proposing EMT, Paramedic, Wilderness First Responder. *Paid or volunteer.*

### What are the dues?

- These patrollers will pay the \$100 National dues set for Associates (most patrols will be billed.) No other dues will be required.

### Do Associate Patrollers have voting rights?

- No. As non-traditional members, they do not have voting privileges.

### Why is this more expensive than the Pro Division Dues?

- Because this category does not fit into any of our traditional membership categories, it is part of the Associate program. Associate dues are \$100.

### How does billing work?

- Associate patrols will be billed the same way as all other patrols. They will live under the X Division, which currently houses the “US Ski Patrol - Admin” patrol. The dues will be billed according to their Member Type (Associate).

Are Associate Patrols linked to a Region or Division?

- Yes – Like all Geographic Associate rosters, the Associate Patrols will be linked to a Division (X Division), but not a Region.

Can an individual join as an Associate Patroller?

We encourage full patrols to join. However, individual patrollers on an existing active patrol can join, but they must be tied to an active roster created by the ski area/patrol director.

How many patrols could be added or come back?

- We have identified 46 patrols in the US that are not currently members of NSP. Many of these patrols were at one point part of NSP but left at least in part due to the OEC requirement. We hope this new member type will provide an opening for these patrols to renew their association with NSP or to keep other patrols from leaving.
- We identified key patrols that would be first invited through an email from the CEO to tell them about the changes and benefits.

What type of roster will these associate members be on?

- Associate patrol members will be on a new Associate Patrol roster.

Can a ski area have an associate patrol roster and a volunteer roster?

- Yes. The same way a ski area can have a Pro and Volunteer patrol, they could have an Associate and Volunteer patrol. Ski areas can have as many rosters (or lists) as they need.

Currently, many ski areas have a volunteer roster and a paid roster, one of which is in a geographic division and another in the Professional division. Many areas have a Host roster and a Patrol roster. The Associate Patrol merely provides an additional option. It is designed for those patrols contemplating leaving, or those patrols who want to rejoin NSP without being OEC.

Can Ski Areas have a split patrol roster with some as Associates and some as Professional?

- No. The area would need two separate rosters – one for the Associate patrollers, and one for the Professional division patrollers.

Is an Associate patrol roster required to be invoiced?

- No. A Patrol Director can establish the Associate Patrol roster and require their members to pay their dues individually.

If the patrol is not paying the roster dues, can I still offer the Associate Patrol membership option to my EMT certified patrollers?

- Yes, but you will need to create and manage a separate Associate Patrol roster. The patroller would simply pay their dues individually.

Are Associate Patrollers required to take any NSP courses?

- No. They will, however, have access to and will be welcome to take available online courses. We will encourage it as an opportunity for meeting their continuing education requirements.

Can an Associate Patroller access the Center for Learning?

- Yes. We will encourage them to access it for continuing education. Members of Associate Patrol rosters can take classes through the Center for Learning, such as Outdoor Risk Management (ORM); We have specifically identified this class as a benefit to Associate Patrols. We may not see gains over the first year, but as this is an available option and NSP course offerings grow and improve -- particularly online courses -- we expect gradual growth.

Can an Associate Patroller take NSP Skills Courses (OEC, OET, etc)?

- If an Affiliate option is not available to them, they could seek out a willing NSP certified instructor. If the instructor is willing to teach a course for the Associate Patrol, or accept the individual Associate Patroller in their course, then they can take the course. The Associate Patrol/Patroller will be charged a fee commensurate with the course, determined by the instructor and including relevant division dues or fees.

Are the Associate Patrollers able to teach NSP courses?

- No. If they want to, they will have to meet current requirements to become an NSP instructor.

What do I do with my existing Associates?

- Nothing. This is a new classification and does not impact existing associate rosters or relations.

Can the Patrols/Patrollers move to full traditional members?

- Yes. If the whole Associate patrol decides they wish to have their patrollers become OEC credentialed Traditional members, they would join a geographic or professional division as a Patrol. Their members would need to meet all of the requirements of Traditional members and gain benefits of traditional membership.

Can I have my patrol candidates join as an associate and then move them to a roster once they complete the OEC?

- No. Candidates must: find a patrol, create an account, join a roster, pay dues and then take OEC. Please see [nsp.org](http://nsp.org).

What are the benefits for Associate Patrol members?

- Area operators will benefit from creating an Associate Patrol to connect to the NSP network, opportunities, education and member benefits.  
See Member Benefits at [nsp.org](http://nsp.org)