

PSIA



AASI

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors

Experience-Driven Learning Lab Narrative

The above-named workshop fills a very important gap in our regional and national training and development schedule. It provides participants with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Experiential Education and their role as a teacher / coach in it. Participants learn to integrate theory and practice of experiential learning, and generate an understanding of how teaching 'experientially' fundamentally differs from teaching 'didactically'. The workshop is conducted in a very hands-on manner, reflecting experiential education methodology, a process in which students are largely responsible both for creating relevant content and actively manage the process. Carefully selected series of learning outcomes offer participants the requisite search targets for their experimentation and playful exploration. In that students feel highly in charge of the 'hunt' for solutions and answers, their engagement levels are high, and their accountability for results generates productive energy and a highly collaborative learning environment. All play, no bystanders. Action related 'language' emerges from the learning process, language that is both simple and action prompting.

In that experiential learning requires coaches and facilitators to know and understand their role, we spend a considerable amount of time and effort in re-defining skills and competencies brought to the process of facilitating learning experientially. Learning to learn in a more or less playful manner is the aim of good experiential learning. Cognition, as it relates to playful skill development is suggested to take a back seat; yet in learning to teach in this manner requires coaches to understand the theory and principles of engagement, relying heavily on cognitive processing. In that sense the lab will have to manage the paradoxical challenge to help produce profound simplicity in the learning process, while pushing intellectual learning to achieve this goal.

Are you ready for this adventure in learning? Come prepared to feel the productive discomfort of learning to learn. Join us in this exciting journey into Experience Driven Learning and Teaching.

Horst Abraham – Program Designer and Coach

Roger Henderson – Program Designer and Coach

Jane Tarlow – Program Designer and Coach