2026/2027

Snowboard Curriculum Guide

Table of Contents

Level 1 Educational Events **4**
- Snowboard Tricks of the Trees 5
- Snowboard All Mountain Performance 6
- Snowboarding 201 10
- Snowboard All Mountain Freestyle 12
- The Art of Carve 14

Level 2 Educational Events **16**
- Snowboarding 301 17

Level 3 Educational Events **19**
- Snowboarding 401 Trainer Workshop 20

Additional Resources and FAQs **23**

Introduction:

Supporting snowsports instructors in their professional development qualifies the skill sets outlined for great instruction outlined in the PSIA-AASI National Standards. These skill sets are grouped into the following assessment modules with Learning Outcomes defining attainable milestones in professional development.

- Teaching & People Skills
- Movement Analysis & Technical Understanding Skills
- Technical Performance Skills

At educational events, participants can expect a supportive, engaging environment focused on skill improvement, teaching methodology, and movement analysis. Educational events are designed to align with national standards, offering personalized feedback and hands-on experience to help instructors grow and succeed on their certification path.

Members must meet the minimum certification level required to participate in an event. For further questions or concerns, please contact the office at events@psia-rm.org or (970)-879-8335.

Materials and Equipment Needed for All Educational Events:

- Appropriate riding/ski gear to be on-snow in all weather
- Helmets are required

Level 1 Educational Events

Snowboard Tricks of the Trees

Duration (Hours/CEUs)

2 days / 12 CEUs

Learning Connection Highlight

Teaching Skills, People Skills, Technical Skills

Course Description

Take your basic riding skills from the groomers into the trees with tactics for teaching and exploring this type of terrain with students. You will ride terrain that will develop solid skills for being confident and comfortable riding in the trees, selecting tree runs, and managing your lesson in the tree environment.

Recommended Preparatory Learning or Prerequisites

- Comfortable on a variety of blue terrain

Prerequisite Course(s) and Skills

- Snowboard Level 1 Certified

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:

- Take your basic riding skills from the groomers into the trees
- Tactics for teaching and exploring this type of terrain with students
- Riding other types of terrain that will develop solid skills for being confidence and comfortable riding in the trees
- Selecting tree runs and class handling in the tree environment

Learning Experiences

- Ice breaker exercises to build rapport among the group and expose a variety of information useful for future exercises.
- Play and drills exploring movement and riding styles both in and out of the trees, on and off of the groomed runs
- Riding time with direct feedback from peers and clinic leader

Materials/Equipment needed

- Appropriate riding gear to be on snow both days
- Helmets are required

Snowboard All Mountain Performance

Duration: 2 days / 12 CEUs

Course Description

All Mountain Performance is a two-day, on-snow clinic designed for instructors who want to ride and teach confidently in variable conditions and challenging terrain. Participants will explore how the six fundamentals blend differently across groomed, off-piste, and double black diamond terrain, and how snow conditions, aspect, and pacing shape the decisions we make with students. Through guided experimentation, peer movement analysis, and terrain-based applications, participants will develop the skills to identify what their students need, prescribe meaningful changes, and manage risk without sacrificing a fun learning environment.

Prerequisites Courses and Skills: PSIA-AASI Alpine/Snowboard Level 1 Certification

Performance Goal

This clinic aims to expand participants' ability to adapt their riding and their teaching to variable terrain and conditions, and to build the judgment needed to take students into more challenging environments safely.

Learning Outcomes

The participant will achieve the goal when successfully performing the following:

- Identify critical skills that their students need related to their level
- Identify movement "themes" within their peers and apply appropriate prescriptions for change
- Adapt their riding in different types of terrain by varying the blend of the six fundamentals
- Demonstrate risk management through an understanding of snow conditions, terrain park features, aspect, and pacing

Learning Activities: Suggestions

- Warm up on a groomed run and check that everyone has appropriate gear for variable conditions
- Discuss skills that are necessary for our students to be able to demonstrate before we take them onto more challenging terrain

- Discuss aspects and snow conditions, basing the run choices on this information
- Discuss risk tolerance, decision-making, and pacing. How do we do these three things while maintaining a fun and exciting learning environment for our students?
- Explore, after giving an example, how we adapt the six fundamentals to the terrain and snow conditions through activities on and off-piste
- Explore different riding tactics depending on the group's riding level and goals for the day, and identify and discuss how to use the same tactics in lessons
- Demonstrate ways to get students through terrain above their level, if necessary, safely, and introduce ways to manage fear, use across the fall line, old skill new terrain, new skill old terrain, etc.
- Identify a movement "theme" within the group, provide a prescription for change, and have the group do the same with each other in small groups

Snowboarding 101 Examiner Outline

Ride

Riding- You will be assessed on your ability to ride at a proficient level in several different conditions and maneuvers. For example, you will need to show your ability to carve, skidded turns, switch skidded turns, basic freestyle, and off piste or bumps.

- Riding focus on stance and alignment
- Introduce the 6 fundamentals doing an exercise to illustrate each one.
- Riding improvement on skidded turns both forward and switch
- Rider feedback on carved turns
- Rider feedback on Bumps
- Rider feedback on basic freestyle ollies, nollies, jumps straight airs, boxes 50/50, on snow tail/nose presses, and on snow in the fall line 360's both front and backside.

Teach

Teaching- You will be assessed in your ability to deliver a beginner progression to your peers illustrating knowledge and good communication skills so your students can learn.

People Skills- You will be assessed on how you manage yourself and other in a group. How you communicate and how you conduct yourself as a professional in the group.

Level 1-4 Progression

- Intro to gear
- 1 footed orientation
- Skating
- Straight glide on the flats, then hiking up and straight glide on a gentle pitch
- 1 footed J-turn focus on tilt and pivot
- 2 footed orientation how to stand up and then balance movements on the flats.
- Heel-side and Toe-side side-slips. The fundamental focus is tilt.
- Falling leafs. The fundamental focus is twist.
- Skidded traverse. The fundamental focus is longitudinal pressure
- Garlands The fundamental focus is pivot.
- C-turns The fundamental focus is vertical pressure and lateral pressure.

Movement Analysis/ Technical Understanding

Movement Analysis- You will be assessed on your ability to watch a rider and break them down bio-mechanically on how they move to get the board to perform and how they can improve.

- Body movement issue
- Board performance result
- Turn outcome (i.e. tail washing out)
- Pick the main fundamental that is the issue
- Pick an exercise from the 1-4 progression that they will use to fix it.

Technical Understanding- You will be assessed in your overall knowledge of snowboarding in various aspects such as equipment, history, and culture.

- Define the 6 Snowboarding Fundamentals
- Relate snowboarding fundamental to personal riding development
- Speak to a variety of Snowboarding equipment and its impact on the rider

Snowboarding 201

Duration (Hours/CEUs)

1 or 2 days / 6 or 12 CEUs

Learning Connection Highlight

Technical Skills, Teaching Skills, People Skills

Course Description

This 1 or 2-day clinic is your opportunity to review information relative to the Level 2 exam across MA, Teaching, and Riding elements. These are participant driven sessions - come prepared with specific criteria you're looking to develop or seek feedback on!

Improve your riding skills and versatility with riding, coaching, and feedback. Level 2 riding activities may be used to develop skills while applying the tasks to a variety of terrain and conditions.

Preview the Level 2 movement analysis requirements as you prepare for certification. You will be given feedback where you currently stand in the national exam standard for movement analysis and the technical applications of teaching levels 5-7.

Explore the Level 2 teaching standards as you prepare for your Level 2 Instruction certification exam.

Recommended Preparatory Learning or Prerequisites

- Review Level 2 Assessment Forms
- Review Level 2 Performance Guide
- Comfortable on a variety of intermediate and advanced terrain.
- Participants should have experience working with intermediate students and be actively training towards their Level 2 Certification.
- These are participant driven sessions - come prepared with specific criteria you're looking to develop or seek feedback on!

Prerequisite Course(s) and Skills

- Snowboard Level 1 Certification

Learning Outcomes

- Participants will gain a clearer picture of the movements and skills that can be developed to move towards attaining the Level 2 riding standard.

- Participants will gain a clearer picture of their ability to observe, describe and analyze board performance and body movements.
- Participants will gain a clearer picture of their ability to develop successful lessons utilizing progression building within the teaching model.

Learning Experiences

- The riding tasks used for riding feedback and improvement, movement analysis, and technical understanding practice sessions will be selected from the *National Riding Activity List*.
- Observe the clinic leader analyze riding performance of participants.
- Clinic Leader provides guided practice for participants analyzing riding performance of a peer performing a predetermined intermediate-level riding task from the *National Riding Activity List*.
- Clinic leader provides guided practice for participants comparing their riding performance of a predetermined intermediate-level riding task with the desired performance.
- Clinic leader may demonstrate building a teach from group observation.
- Clinic leader provides participants opportunities to assess peers and develop teaching segments.
- Discussions, reflections of analyses, and exploration of technical topics as needed.

Materials/Equipment needed

- Appropriate riding gear to be on snow both days
- Helmets are required

Snowboard All Mountain Freestyle

Duration
1 day / 6 CEUs

Course Description:

This clinic is a fun and mind opening experience on how to ski/ride the whole mountain with a freestyle view and mentality. This clinic is ideal for anyone wanting to learn about teaching freestyle outside the park.

Participants will learn how to teach freestyle using a variety of terrain and how to incorporate freestyle into their all mountain riding/skiing. This clinic will enhance your alpine/snowboard skill sets by expanding your knowledge of functional movement patterns for specific outcomes. The clinician will help you build your confidence while working through new challenges and ideas, which will deepen your mountain experience and expand your teaching options.

Prerequisites Courses and Skills:

- PSIA-AASI Alpine/Snowboard Level 1 Certification

Course Objectives:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate freestyle applications in an all-mountain environment
- Demonstrate how to build freestyle progressions to enhance teaching
- Collaborate on how to help promote learning of new skills through freestyle
- Describe how to apply freestyle terminology and tactics in the all-mountain environment.

Learning Outcomes:

- Apply the A.T.M.L. model to various types of terrain
- Build S.A.S.C. (static, active, simple, complex) progressions and explore how different types of terrain can be incorporated into progressions.
- Explore how the application of Speed, POP, and Spin changes in different types of terrain and conditions

- Practice how to safely set up session environments outside the park and how Park Smart is relevant to all mountain snowboarding/skiing.
- Practice freestyle techniques and tricks and have participants receive feedback on desired body performance and ski performance.

The Art of Carve

Duration
2 days / 12 CEUs

Course Description:

The Art of Carve is a two-day, on-snow clinic designed for instructors who want to refine their carving skills while expanding their coaching toolbox. Participants will explore the mechanics of advanced carving, develop higher edge angles, and gain a deeper understanding of how the fundamentals and D.I.R.T. (Duration, Intensity, Rate, and Timing) influence turn shape, performance, and efficiency.

Through guided experimentation, peer coaching, and terrain-based applications, participants will discover creative ways to evolve both their own riding and their teaching. By blending movement analysis with purposeful drills and individualized feedback, this clinic helps instructors identify performance changes, communicate them effectively, and inspire students to develop confident, versatile, and expressive carving skills.

Prerequisites Courses and Skills:

- PSIA-AASI Alpine/Snowboard Level 1 Certification

Performance Goal:
This clinic aims to further the understanding of the carve turn, foster creativity for their lessons, and help evolve their own riding style.

Learning Outcomes:
The participant will achieve the goal when successfully performing the following:

- Define advanced carving through multiple demonstrations
- Demonstrate and identify higher edge angles sooner in the turn, and explore how D.I.R.T. affects carving
- Identify and demonstrate how all fundamentals affect the outcome of the carve.
- Demonstrate how the use of coaching analysis can create a performance change.

Learning Experiences:
Some potential learning experiences to help achieve the learning outcomes:

- Ask participants what their carving goals are for the day. As a trainer, try to meet as many, if not all, of them. In the recap, highlight how you achieved your goals by using specific tasks and drills.
- Illustrate different kinds of carving and How to accomplish the task; some examples are: Large Dolphin turns, Toes to Toes, Heel to Heels, put grabs in to carve turns both Toe side and Heelside turns, Uphill edge jumps in turn, hand, arm, and body drag carves, both Toe and Heel side, carve in and out of slash turns.
- Look for opportunities to practice carving using terrain-dependent features like rolls, walls, halfpipes, and other terrain features
- Using a basic carve, explore the top 3 fundamentals used. If there is a discrepancy in what the top are, have the participant present and demonstrate why they feel these are the top fundamentals.
- In small groups or partners, explore how to evolve the basic carve by manipulating the fundamentals individually or in combination. Have them use movement analysis on each other to identify cause and effects of body movements on fundamentals to change the outcome of the carve, use a cue to change performance in their peer related to a specific turn phase, or use common student-based language to do the same. Explore how manipulating the fundamentals in carving can lead to creativity.
- Explore how to evolve the basic carve by manipulating the D.I.R.T. of the carve. Explore how manipulating the D.I.R.T. in a carve can lead to creativity while carving.
- Have participants identify their unique carving “style” or tactic and relate it to an ideal student movement pattern. How can we help students do the same carve?
- Be sure to highlight changes in performance throughout the day, at the end of the day, discuss the importance of describing and relating changes in performance with each other, and have students draw out from the group at least two different ways to identify and relate performance changes to students.

Level 2 Educational Events

Snowboarding 301

Duration (Hours/CEUs)

1 or 2 days / 6 or 12 CEUs

Learning Connection Highlight

Technical Skills, Teaching Skills, People Skills

Course Description

This 1 or 2-day clinic is your opportunity to review information relative to the Level 3 exam across MA, Teaching, and Riding elements. These are participant driven sessions - come prepared with specific criteria you're looking to develop or seek feedback on!

Improve your riding skills and versatility with riding, coaching, and feedback. Level 3 riding activities may be used to develop skills while applying the tasks to a variety of terrain and conditions.

Preview the Level 3 movement analysis requirements as you prepare for certification. You will be given feedback where you currently stand in the national exam standard for movement analysis and the technical applications of teaching levels 8-9.

Explore the Level 3 teaching standards as you prepare for your Level 3 Instruction certification exam.

Recommended Preparatory Learning or Prerequisites

- Review Level 3 Assessment Forms
- Review Level 3 Performance Guide
- Comfortable on a variety of intermediate and advanced terrain.
- Participants should have experience working with advanced students and be actively training towards their Level 3 Certification.
- These are participant driven sessions - come prepared with specific criteria you're looking to develop or seek feedback on!

Prerequisite Course(s) and Skills

- Snowboard Level 2 Certification

Learning Outcomes

- Participants will gain a clearer picture of the movements and skills that can be developed to move towards attaining the Level 3 riding standard.

- Participants will gain a clearer picture of their ability to observe, describe and analyze board performance and body movements.
- Participants will gain a clearer picture of their ability to develop successful lessons utilizing progression building within the teaching model.

Learning Experiences

- The riding tasks used for riding feedback and improvement, movement analysis, and technical understanding practice sessions will be selected from the *National Riding Activity List*.
- Observe the clinic leader analyze riding performance of participants.
- Clinic Leader provides guided practice for participants analyzing riding performance of a peer performing a predetermined advanced-level riding task from the *National Riding Activity List*.
- Clinic leader provides guided practice for participants comparing their riding performance of a predetermined advanced-level riding task with the desired performance.
- Clinic leader may demonstrate building a teach from group observation.
- Clinic leader provides participants opportunities to assess peers and develop teaching segments.
- Discussions, reflections of analyses, and exploration of technical topics as needed.

Materials/Equipment needed

- Appropriate riding gear to be on snow both days
- Helmets are required

Level 3 Educational Events

Snowboarding 401 Trainer Workshop

Duration (Hours/CEUs)

1 or Days / 6 or 12 CEUs

Learning Connection Highlight

Technical Skills, Teaching Skills, People Skills

Course Description

This 1 or 2-day clinic is your opportunity to review information relative to the Snowboard Trainer assessment across MA, Teaching, and Riding elements. These are participant driven sessions - come prepared with specific criteria you're looking to develop or seek feedback on! Trainer Workshops may include tasks, progressions, skills, and learnings from any level of certification, on any exam terrain, forward or switch. Your clinician will work with the group to determine specific goals and skills to develop based on participants' needs, available terrain and features, and snow/weather conditions.

Clinic & Presentation Skills: This clinic will workshop Clinic and Presentation skills at the Trainer level. The workshop is designed to introduce you to the Trainer standard and develop clinic and presentation skills through pre-work, on-snow practice, feedback, and self-assessment. Clinic & Presentation 401 Trainer Workshop counts as a prerequisite for the Snowboard Trainer exam and will help you learn where to focus your training as a candidate or trainer at your resort.

MA & Tech Skills: This clinic will workshop Movement Analysis and Technical skills at the Snowboard Trainer level. The workshop is designed to introduce you to the Rocky Mountain Trainer standard and develop MA and Technical skills through pre-work, on-snow practice, feedback, and self-assessment. MA & Tech 401 Trainer Workshop counts as a prerequisite for the Snowboard Trainer exam and will help you learn where to focus your training as a Snowboard Trainer candidate or trainer at your resort.

Riding Skills: This clinic will workshop Riding skills at the Snowboard Trainer level. The workshop is designed to introduce you to the Snowboard Trainer standard and develop your riding through pre-work, on-snow practice, feedback, and self-assessment. Ride 401 Trainer Workshop counts as a prerequisite for the Snowboard Trainer exam and will help you learn where to focus your training as a Snowboard Trainer candidate or trainer at your resort.

Recommended Preparatory Learning or Prerequisites

- Complete the Snowboard Trainer Clinic & Presentation 401 Clinic Builder clinic outline (available at PSIA-RM.org), and come prepared to present your clinic on snow.
- Come prepared with at least one video on your phone of a rider that you are familiar with and can talk to changes they have made or are working on.
- Come prepared with documented feedback (written, videos, text messages, etc) of at least two specific riding tasks. This could be from a trainer you're working with, a peer or supervisor or manager, or with your own self-assessment.
- Participants should have experience working with advanced students and be actively training towards their Level 3 Certification.
- These are participant driven sessions - come prepared with specific criteria you're looking to develop or seek feedback on!

Prerequisite Course(s) and Skills

- Snowboard Level 3 Certification
- Snowboard Level 2 Certified with Letter of Recommendation from Ski School Director / Training Manager

Learning Outcomes

- Participants will gain a clearer picture of the movements and skills that can be developed to move towards attaining the Snowboard Trainer riding standard.
- Participants will gain a clearer picture of their ability to observe, describe and analyze board performance and body movements of peer instructors.
- Participants will gain a clearer picture of their ability to deliver prepared and impromptu clinics.

Learning Experiences

- Observe the clinic leader analyze riding performance of participants.
- Clinic Leader provides guided practice for participants analyzing riding performance of a peer performing a predetermined instructor-level riding task from the *National Riding Activity List*.
- Clinic leader provides guided practice for participants comparing their riding performance of a predetermined instructor-level riding task with the desired performance.
- Deliver your prepared clinic and receive feedback from clinic leader and peers.

- Clinic leader provides participants opportunities to deliver impromptu clinics on assigned topics.
- Discussions, reflections of analyses, and exploration of technical topics as needed.

Additional Resources and FAQs

How to Register for an Event?

There are a few ways to register. You can register online through the Rocky Mountain website under the ‘Events” tab, or you can download an application form from the “Events” tab and email it to events@psia-rm.org. We do not accept phone registrations as you need to sign the waiver for the event and cannot complete that over the phone.

If online registration is closed, can I still register for an event?

Yes, you can still register for an event after online registration is closed, please download a form fillable PDF Event application from the “Events” tab and email it to events@psia-rm.org.

Resources:

The event calendar is available at: http://www.psia-rm.org

View the event cancellation policy on the PSIA-RM website

View the waitlist policy on the PSIA-RM website

View the CEU education requirement policy on the PSIA-RM website

For additional questions or concerns, please email events@psia-rm.org