



EASTERN

Snowsports Management Seminar & Eastern Trainer Academy

(with Adaptive, Alpine, Snowboard and Children's specific tracks)

Mount Snow, VT on November 30-December 2, 2026

This year's **Snowsports Management Seminar** brings together leaders, trainers, and staff from resorts across the Eastern Region for three days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. With a central theme of **developing instructors**, the agenda also dives into preparation for PSIA-AASI assessments, resort safety best practices, teaching strategies and movement analysis for both Alpine and Snowboard instructors. Once again the **one-day Cross Country track** will be offered on **December 1, 2026**. New this year, the Eastern Trainer Academy is adding an **adaptive track** to its' lineup, adding to the existing Alpine, Children's Focus and Snowboard options. Through an exploration of the National Standards, participants will gain insights into leading effective training and supporting staff success.

Keynote Presentation



Operational Belonging: Building Teams Where People Can Thrive and Perform

With Damaris Patterson-Price

Monday, November 30, 7:00pm

Belonging is more than creating a welcoming culture—it is shaped by the everyday systems, behaviors, and decisions that define how an organization operates. In this keynote, Damaris Patterson-Price will explore how leaders can intentionally create environments where employees feel valued, connected, accountable, and able to contribute at their highest level. Participants will examine the connection between belonging, trust, leadership practices, employee engagement, and performance, with a focus on the realities of leading diverse and seasonal teams. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for embedding belonging into communication, staff development, decision-making, and daily operations to build stronger teams and healthier organizations.



EASTERN

PSIA-AASI Member School Program

Our PSIA-AASI Member School Program is a great way for you gain access to education, tools to recruit new instructors, and resources to train and retain your snowsports school instructors, helping you deliver great experiences for your guests. If you have not yet signed up to be a PSIA-AASI Member School, remember that the Tier 2 and 3 memberships include at least one free registration to the Snowsports Management Seminar or the Eastern Trainer Academy. In addition, Tier 2 and Tier 3 Member Schools receive at least one day of on-site training from an Eastern Education Staff member! Click [here](#) for more information and to join or renew as a member school.

Back by Popular Demand - Breakfast is included with your registration

A full breakfast buffet is included with your registration and will be served from 7:00–8:30 a.m. in the Somerset Ballroom. Join your peers over coffee and a hearty meal to swap ideas, share solutions, and connect on the unique challenges and successes of running Snowsports School programs. It's a relaxed way to start the day while building relationships that last well beyond the event.

Snowsports Management Awards Banquet

Your registration includes attendance at the Snowsports Management Awards Banquet, a highlight of the seminar. (Participants in the one-day Cross Country track may purchase a banquet ticket as an add-on.) Join us on **Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Somerset Ballroom for an evening of celebration and connection. During the banquet, we'll honor outstanding contributions to our community with the **2026 Snowsports Leader of the Year Award**, the **Double Diamond Award**, and the **Area Rep Awards**. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate with your peers and applaud the deserving recipients! A limited number of guest tickets are also available for purchase online

Registration Information

All registrations are completely online; **please make sure you are logged into your personal PSIA-AASI Member account and NOT your Member School account.** Go to our Feature Events page to register or click [here](#). If you plan to arrive early on Monday, you have the option to purchase an Epic Day Pass in advance. Click [here](#) for more information.

Lodging Info

Discounted lodging is available at the Mount Snow Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center. To book, call Group Reservations at 855-948-0698 and reference the *PSIA-AASI Snowsports Management Group*, or use code **BSNPAA265** online. The **discounted rate is available through Wednesday, November 4**. After that date, rooms will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis - reserve early!

Town Hall Meeting

Join us for an Eastern Region update and insight into the National Strategic Alignment Initiative. In this session, engage in a discussion to elevate the value of a certified snowsports professional and explore new offerings from the Eastern Region. This is your opportunity to ask questions and get answers from leaders in the Eastern Region including Eastern CEO, Kathy Brennan.



EASTERN

Basecamp

Basecamp, our online communication forum, is a valuable resource for Snowsports School Directors to ask questions, share ideas and resources, and connect with colleagues throughout the season. Not yet a member? Simply contact the Eastern Region Office, and we'll add you to the Snowsports Management group. With regular announcements, important updates, and new opportunities, Basecamp is your go-to resource for staying informed and connected all season long.

Eastern Leadership Roundup

Our first ever Eastern Leadership Roundup was a huge success this past spring. This one-day follow-up to the Snowsports Management Seminar was designed for leaders across the Eastern Division to reconvene, reflect, and re-energize as the season comes to an end. The morning is spent on snow with a light focus, creating space for reconnection, movement, and informal exchange. In the afternoon, snowsports leaders gather indoors for a facilitated roundtable conversation. This generative discussion encourages sharing of best practices, debriefing of the past season, and sparking of creative ideas to support upcoming budgeting and planning efforts.

This season we are offering two opportunities - Register Today!

[Register Here: Friday, March 19, 2027 - Camelback, PA](#)

[Register Here: Friday, April 9, 2027 - Killington, VT](#)



EASTERN

General Agenda

Monday, November 30, 2026

5:00 - 7:00 PM	Early Event Check-In	<i>Deerfield</i>
7:00 PM	Keynote Speaker	<i>Somerset Ballroom</i>
Following Keynote	Area Rep Meeting	<i>Somerset Ballroom</i>

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

7:00 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet & Networking	<i>Somerset Ballroom</i>
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Event Check-In	<i>Deerfield</i>
9:00 - 11:30 AM	Pre-Selected Indoor or Outdoor Session	<i>See Agenda</i>
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch Break (on your own)	
12:30 - 3:00 PM	Pre-Selected Indoor or Outdoor Session	<i>See Agenda</i>
4:00 PM	Town Hall	<i>Deerfield</i>
6:00 PM	Snowsports Management Banquet & Awards	<i>Somerset Ballroom</i>

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

7:00 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet & Networking	<i>Somerset Ballroom</i>
9:00 - 11:30 AM	Pre-Selected Indoor or Outdoor Session	<i>See Agenda</i>
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch Break (on your own)	
12:30 - 3:00 PM	Pre-Selected Indoor or Outdoor Session	<i>See Agenda</i>



EASTERN

Session Agenda



2026 Snowsports Management Seminar

		INDOOR SESSIONS		OUTDOOR SESSIONS	
Tuesday, December 1	9:00 AM	Eastern Trainer Academy, Alpine, Adaptive, Children's and Snowboard Groups			Base of Grand Summit Express
	AM SMS Sessions 9:00-11:30 AM	Safety in Practice: The Deposition Experience	Raponda Central	XC Teaching Strategies for Children	Discovery Center
		Operational Belonging in Practice	Raponda South	Alpine Beginner & Intermediate Movement Analysis	Base of Bluebird
		Planning Purposeful Professional Development Pathways with Your Staff	Raponda West	Inside the Tech Understanding & MA Module	Base of Bluebird
		More Than a Pin: The Value of Certified Instructors	Deerfield North	Event Sneak Peak: Teaching Senior Adults	Base of Bluebird
				Inside the Alpine Level I	Base of Bluebird
				Snowboard Movement Analysis for Everyday Teaching	Base of Bluebird
	PM SMS Sessions 12:30-3:00 PM	More Than a Pin: The Value of Certified Instructors	Deerfield North	Inside the Teaching & People Module	Base of Bluebird
		Operational Belonging in Practice	Raponda South	Inside the Tech Understanding & MA Module	Base of Bluebird
		Safety in Practice: The Deposition Experience	Raponda Central	Event Sneak Peak: Teaching Senior Adults	Base of Bluebird
		Alpine Beginner & Intermediate Movement Analysis	Raponda West	Inside the Alpine Level I	Base of Bluebird
		XC Best Practices Roundtable	Discovery Center, floor 2	Tools & Tactics for Inclusive Lessons	Base of Bluebird
				Freestyle in Everyday Lessons	Base of Bluebird
	4:00 PM	Town Hall Meeting Deerfield			
	6:00 PM	Snowsports Management Banquet, Dinner and Leadership Awards Presentation Somerset Ballroom			
Wednesday, December 2	AM SMS Sessions 9:00-11:30 AM	Safety, Operations & Risk Management	Raponda Central	Alpine Beginner & Intermediate Movement Analysis	Base of Bluebird
		Snowsports School Leadership Roundtable	Deerfield Room	Inside the Teaching & People Module	Base of Bluebird
				Teaching Outside the Box	Base of Bluebird
				Inside the Alpine Level I	Base of Bluebird
	PM SMS Sessions 12:30-3:00 PM	Planning Purposeful Professional Development Pathways with Your Staff	Raponda South	Ski with the Eastern Region Education Staff	Base of Bluebird
		Safety, Operations & Risk Management	Raponda Central	Ride with the Eastern Region Education Staff	Base of Bluebird



EASTERN

Snowsports Management Seminar

Indoor Session Descriptions

More Than a Pin: The Value of Certified Instructors

Every instructor and every lesson should have a positive impact on the health of the snowsports industry. Exceptional guest experiences don't happen by accident—they begin with empowered instructors, intentional leadership and educational content aligned with identified best practices to create guest loyalty. In this session, Jeb Boyd will share our vision for helping snowsports schools cultivate instructor excellence through outcome-based education and the Learning Connection Model. Participants will explore how our Certification Criteria in People Skills, Teaching Skills, Technical Skills and Instructor Behavior and Decisions can be woven into staff development, training, and organizational culture to support instructor growth, elevate lesson experiences, and encourage guests to return to the sport year after year. Attendees will leave with practical strategies they can apply within their own schools to strengthen both instructor development and guest engagement.

Planning Purposeful Professional Development Pathways with Your Staff

As with our students on snow, one size does not fit all when it comes to professional development for instructors. This session examines PSIA-AASI curriculum components—from the Learning Connection Model and published resources to on-snow events—as both operational tools and enrichment opportunities for creating purposeful, customized development pathways. Explore how these resources can be used to address the needs and interests of individual instructors, cohorts within your staff, and your staff as a whole.

XC Best Practices Roundtable

Led by Eastern Region and CCSAA leadership, this generative discussion will dive into timely and practical topics for XC snowsports schools. Join your peers to explore strategies for hiring instructors to handle sporadic lesson requests, building XC lessons as a profit center, and practical strategies to teach children. We'll also cover safety considerations, XC Level I Assessment readiness, and fresh programming ideas. This session is an opportunity to share learnings, ask questions, and collaborate on best practices for a sustainable and thriving XC program.

Alpine Beginner & Intermediate Movement Analysis

Join us for an interactive indoor training session that uses video analysis to strengthen your staff's coaching in the Green and Blue Zones. Together, we'll break down beginner and intermediate skiing and explore how to design effective training that equips your instructors with the tools they need to deliver an outstanding experience.

Safety, Operations & Risk Management

What can current industry trends tell us about risk in snowsports school operations—and how can we use that information to make better decisions? David Byrd from NSAA will explore lesson participation trends, and common operational risk factors, including unseated passengers, lift load/unload incidents, and lesson dynamics. This session connects industry insights with the realities on the hill, helping leaders identify exposures, strengthen practices, and support safer operations for guests and staff.

Safety in Practice: The Deposition Experience

What happens when a snowsports leader is called to provide testimony following an incident? In this interactive session, David Byrd from NSAA will simulate the deposition process, giving participants a firsthand look at the types of questions leaders may face and how operational decisions, policies, documentation, and communication can come under scrutiny. Through a realistic scenario and group discussion, participants will gain a better understanding of the deposition process and how everyday leadership practices can matter when an incident becomes a legal matter.



EASTERN

Operational Belonging in Practice

This follow-up session builds on the keynote by giving participants an opportunity to explore what belonging looks like in day-to-day operations. Through discussion and practical examples, leaders will examine how communication, expectations, decision-making, feedback, and team practices can either strengthen or weaken a sense of belonging. Attendees will leave with practical ways to apply the keynote concepts within their own schools and teams.

Snowsports School Leaders Roundtable

This session offers a collaborative space to reflect, connect, and look ahead. Together, we'll highlight key takeaways from the seminar, exchange insights on emerging trends in snowsports management, and explore strategies for bringing the Learning Connection Model to life within your schools. This roundtable is your chance to share experiences, ask questions, and leave with practical ideas to carry forward—ensuring that the culture of snowsports continues to thrive long after the seminar concludes.

Outdoor Session Descriptions

Tools & Tactics for Inclusive Lessons

Discover practical, easy-to-use tools and creative teaching strategies for supporting students with different learning and movement needs in any lesson. Through realistic teaching scenarios, participants will explore individual student needs, consider different approaches, and experiment with simple, adaptive-friendly equipment such as tip retention devices, sliders, handlebar boards, hula hoops and long poles. This interactive, hands-on session focuses on accessible equipment and adaptable strategies that can help instructors create more individualized learning experiences, support student success, and expand their school's ability to welcome a wider range of learners.

Teaching Outside the Box

Every instructor has natural preferences for how they learn and communicate—but our students may learn differently. Explore tools for recognizing your own tendencies and expanding the ways you present information, facilitate experiences, and connect with learners. Drawing from familiar learning theories such as Kolb's experiential learning cycle, Multiple Intelligences, and VAK, this session will help you experiment with communication strategies that reach a broader range of students and better adapt to their changing needs.

XC Teaching Strategies for Children

Explore practical strategies for creating engaging, age-appropriate cross country lessons for children. Through on-snow activities, discussion, and shared ideas, participants will practice using play, exploration, and experimentation to build skills while adapting activities, communication, pacing, and terrain to meet the needs of young learners.

Inside the Alpine Level I

This session provides a deeper look at the Alpine Level I certification. Participants will explore the assessment format, performance expectations, and assessment criteria while discussing strategies for effectively supporting candidates throughout their development. Bring your questions and leave with greater confidence in mentoring your teams.

Snowboard Movement Analysis for Everyday Teaching

Join us for an interactive indoor session focused on making Movement Analysis practical and useful in everyday snowboard lessons. Participants will explore a simple, repeatable format for observing riders, identifying what is happening, connecting movements to snowboard performance, and choosing an appropriate teaching focus. The goal is not just to prepare instructors for assessment, but to help them use Movement Analysis as a daily coaching tool with real guests. Attendees will leave with a clearer framework they can bring back to staff training and use to help instructors make more accurate observations, stronger lesson decisions, and more effective coaching.



EASTERN

Alpine Beginner & Intermediate Movement Analysis

Step onto the snow for an immersive session focused on building your staff's ability to deliver powerful, student-centered learning experiences in the Green & Blue Zones. Through guided practice, we'll explore effective ways to design activities that lead to real performance outcomes while sharpening observation skills with movement analysis. This session will also highlight how to recognize movement patterns, make timely activity adjustments, and keep lessons flowing based on the needs of the students in front of you.

Event Sneak Peak: Teaching Senior Adults

Curious about teaching aging adults more effectively? This session provides a snapshot of our two-day Teaching the Aging Adult event, introducing the CAP Model for the Natural Aging Process and sharing practical teaching strategies, movement analysis concepts, and activity ideas designed for older learners. You'll leave with actionable tips—and an understanding of how the full event can further develop skills.

Freestyle in Everyday Lessons

Discover how freestyle concepts can enhance lessons well beyond the terrain park. This session explores approachable activities and teaching strategies that help students develop adaptability, confidence, and strong movement patterns through play, exploration, and creative use of natural terrain. Leave with practical ideas you can immediately apply in lessons across a wide range of ages and abilities.

Inside the Teaching & People Module

This session provides a deeper look at the Teaching & People module for Alpine and Snowboard Level II and III certifications. Participants will explore the assessment format, performance expectations, and assessment criteria while discussing strategies for effectively supporting candidates throughout their development. Bring your questions and leave with greater confidence in mentoring your teams.

Inside the Tech Understanding & MA Module

Support your candidates with a clearer understanding of the Technical Understanding & Movement Analysis module for Alpine and Snowboard Level II and III certifications. This interactive session, led by Alpine and Snowboard examiners, examines the assessment format and criteria, and discipline-specific expectations while providing an opportunity to discuss common questions and coaching strategies. Ideal for snowsports leaders looking to strengthen candidate preparation and staff development.

Ski with the Eastern Region Education Staff

Join members of the PSIA Education Staff for an open, personalized session focused on your skiing goals. Whether you're looking to refine your technique, engage in deeper technical discussions, or follow up on insights from earlier sessions, this is your time. Come ready to log some early-season mileage, ask questions, and set the tone for a successful season ahead.

Ride with the Eastern Region Education Staff

Ride with members of the AASI Education Staff in a session designed to support your personal goals. Focus on your own riding, explore technical concepts in depth, or build on what you've learned in the three previous sessions. Come ready to rack up early-season mileage and engage in the conversations that will set you up for success all season long.

[Register Here for the Snowsports Management Seminar](#)



EASTERN

2026 Eastern Trainer Academy November 30 – December 2, 2026 Mount Snow, VT

Are you leading staff training at your resort, or looking to break into that crew? Want to sharpen your understanding of first-tier assessments? Become familiar with how the Fundamentals apply in the assessment environment with the Eastern Trainer Academy. Through an exploration of the National Standards, you will gain insights into how to best lead others through training for success.

This academy offers several tracks—Alpine, Adaptive, Children’s Focus, and Snowboard—to address the unique needs of trainers across disciplines. Each track will connect the National Standards, Learning Connection Model, and discipline-specific fundamentals with practical strategies for running effective training sessions at your resort.

Included with your registration –

- Keynote: “Operational Belonging: Building Teams Where People Can Thrive and Perform” on Monday evening at 7:00pm with Damaris Patterson-P.
- Breakfast Buffet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 7:00am to 8:30am in Sommerset Ballroom
- Snowsports Management Awards Banquet on Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 6:00pm

If you plan to arrive early on Monday, you have the option to purchase an Epic Day Pass in advance. Click [here](#) for more information.

[Register here for the Eastern Trainer Academy](#)