

Ski Patrol Selection Criteria

The following framework will be used to consider prospies during the ski patrol selection process. Students who have at least 3 winters remaining at Middlebury are eligible to try out.

1. Medical knowledge will always be the baseline criteria upon which prospies are selected. Students in the OEC class who score below 80% on the final OEC exam, do not pass a practical in two attempts, or who score below 75% throughout the semester course (see the course syllabus for a weighted breakdown of scores) will be eliminated from consideration. Those who pass these exams will be invited to take part in the ski test.
2. Showing competence on a variety of terrain, snow types, in the trees, and during the skills test (falling leaf, snow plow, hop turns) is central to selection for patrol at the Snow Bowl. The goal of the ski test is to have prospies demonstrate their comfortability, composure, and skill on their skis/board and see how their skills may translate to pulling a toboggan or navigating tricky situations on the hill. We will be observing control, confidence, composure, and comfort on the snow during the ski test.
The Nordic ski test consists of skiing for an hour or so at Rikert with several current patrollers. Nordic patrollers need to be able to efficiently respond anywhere on the Rikert trail system and spend extended hours out on the trails. We will look for confidence and skill in cross-country skiing, along with the baseline level of fitness required to quickly cover distance on cross-country skis.
3. Every year, we want to create a cohesive group of ski patrollers who have a great attitude, contribute positively to the team's culture, and most of all, want to be a Middlebury ski patroller. The OEC class in the fall gives us the chance to get to know prospies and gauge their commitment to patrol. The participation grade will be factored in to consider each prospie's contributions to the class and to patrol as a whole.

During deliberation, the entirety of patrol will discuss each prospie holistically, considering their medical performance during the OEC class, their on-snow competence, and their perceived attitude/commitment. Each prospie's mentors will be given the opportunity to speak about the prospie's performance/attitude during the OEC class to have a personal, but still objective insight into the prospie's contributions to patrol. Discussion of each prospie will be impartial and will not take into account social connections, cool-factor, or anything other than what is included above. The nature of Patrol's role at the Bowl is such that we can only accept a limited number of patrollers each year—the number varies from year to year based on the size of the current patrol. Unfortunately, this means that we have to turn down qualified candidates. Prospies will ultimately be selected during deliberation after unanimous consensus from the current patrol group.