

Far West Division College Community Program – White Paper August, 2011

Purpose

This paper provides information on the Far West Division (FWD) College Community Program. It applies only to California community college approved courses, registered FWD ski patrols, and NSP ski patrollers who reside within the State of California and who are enrolled in the program. Such students taking and completing these courses are eligible to receive continuing educational credits. This paper describes what the program is, identifies how your ski patrol can enroll in the program, and explains the benefits of enrollment and participation in the program.

Questions about this program should be addressed to the FWD College Community Program Advisor, Nancy Stromswold, at **Stromswold@sbcglobal.net** or you can call her at 775 232-4465 cell.

What is the FWD Community College Program?

The State of California has a requirement to educate its communities, and indirectly provides funding for college instructors to meet this requirement. This funding is based on the number of student hours accumulated for each class. If the community college district cannot meet the educational needs with its college instructors, it can contract out to instructors who have been board-certified by the college.

The FWD has established and administers a contract with the California Community College System via the South Bay Public Safety Regional Training Consortium (SBPSTC). The FWD provides college board-certified instructors to the college. These instructors provide continuing education and re-certification credit through the college to ski patrollers who live in the State of California.

How does FWD Ski Patrol participation helps California Colleges?

The Chancellor's Office uses the number of full-time equivalent student (FTES) reported by the districts to calculate each district's state apportionment funding; this is referred to as a "cap." A full-time equivalent student (FTES) is 525 class hours, which assumes 3-hrs/day for an academic year.

California Community Colleges are organized into districts. Each district is funded by the State and limited by their "CAP." This CAP places a maximum number of students per college per year. When a college does not educate to the maximum number of students, it jeopardizes its CAP. Falling below their CAP repeatedly reduces the CAP for that college and causes a college-wide reduction of on-campus services and educational opportunities. Colleges below CAP need students. Outreach programs generate students.

If a College exceeds its CAP, funds *may* not be available to out-reach contractors; core college course take priority for fund allocations.

*CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR - Each district is eligible to receive up to a predetermined level of apportionment funding unique for that district, "cap." FTES in excess of this cap are not funded; however, if supplemental state funds later become available, the Chancellor's Office allocates the supplemental funds based on the district's un-funded FTES."

California community colleges have a long history of partnerships with such outreach programs, and the SBPSTC contracts colleges to provide the needed board-certified instructors and students to fill the CAP. This is where the College reaches out to FWD ski patrol membership -we provide instructors, curriculum, and students.

Approved College Curriculum

The college can teach only college-approved curriculum. All college curriculums, including ski patrol education offered through the college, must be approved first by the Dean of the College and then a Curriculum Committee for the State of California before it can be considered and offered as a college class. Course approval is an arduous process. Fortunately most NSP educational materials are very mature. Detailed instructor outlines and lesson plans are required to support the course approval process. These materials are developed per strict guidelines by the Far West Division and submitted to the College.

The only current approved and adopted classes via the FWD-SBPSTC are the:

- 125-hour OEC class for candidates, and a
- 28-hour OEC refresher class for patrollers. This class includes ski patrol check-off besides the NSP OEC refresher cycle curriculum.

The FWD has submitted and has been approved to receive college credits for its educational conferences (see www.FarWest.org) including:

- FWD Summer Educational
- FWD Tri-Advisory, and the
- FWD Winter Educational conference

The FWD has submitted curriculum material for a 100-hour on-the-hill candidate training class, and is considering other courses.

How does your ski patrol enroll in the FWD Community College Program?

If your ski patrol is interested in supporting the college community program, it must sign and abide to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Far West Division, and process NSP instructors to become California community college board-certified

instructors. Additionally, all ski patrol students need to enroll as college students into each course. These actions are described.

MOU: The FWD NSP Patrol Representatives can sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the FWD. The FWD Community College MOU states that the patrol will abide by the guidelines of the program, and submit an annual expenditure report of all community college funds generated from its participation in the program. All expenditures need to be used for programs consistent with the FWD's "Guidelines for the Acquisition and Expenditure of Ski Patrol Funds."

[<http://www.farwest.org/DocumentLibrary/FWDSkiPatrolExpenseGuidelines-Aug07.pdf>]. This guideline ensures that patrols operate within the Division's 501©3 requirements.

What is the process to become a College Board-Certified Supervising Instructor?

An NSP instructor from the patrol must be "Boarded" by the State of California Community College System to be a Supervising Instructor. Only then can he/she be a Supervising Instructor for the FWD-SBRPSTC program and run a college program for their patrol members.

This process includes:

- being fingerprinted,
- completing and submitting the Instructor Agreement and Resume packet,
- submitting a letter of recommendation of the Patrol Representative, and
- be cleared by the California State Board of Education

There is an internal cost associated with this college board-certifying process. Since this cost is paid by the SBRPSTC, only instructors who plan to assume this role for a long period should pursue it. The supervising instructor must then be on-site during each class offering to document the instruction by other assisting instructors or him/herself.

Assistant Instructors must also register with the State of California, but are not required to be fingerprinted, submit a TB test, or be "Boarded" with the State of California. Only Assistant Instructors and Supervising Instructors can teach classes that receive community college credit.

Student Enrollment is required for a patrol or region to participate in one or more of the approved college curriculums. Each "student patroller" must complete and submit an enrollment application to the community college before the enrollment deadline. The student's application is normally a simple two-page document, and does not require a social security number. If an enrollment form is not completed or is not correct, the college will not accept it. As stated above, all student patrollers enrolled in college courses must be California residents. Assistant instructors can reside outside the State of California.

It is the FWD and the SBRPSTC that administer these processes, and ensure compliance with college requirements.

Course Documentation

At the end of each class, the Supervising Instructor for each course completes an Attestation (course completion) Grade Sheet to document the number of hours each student participated in the class requirements. All documents (enrollment applications, attestation sheets, instructor documentation) must be sent to the SBRPSTC before the deadline identified by the SBRPSTC for each college-registered course to be valid, and eligible for funds.

How does my ski patrol benefit if we enroll?

Participating ski patrols are eligible to receive funds for their participation. Funds are generated to reimburse the college instructors based on the number of student hours accumulated for each college-approved class. The FWD and SBPSTC administer the course offerings, record student hours, and reimburse funds per course offering back to ski patrols, through the Division.

In order for participating ski patrols to receive funds for community college participation, a patrol must first submit to the FWD treasurer:

1. Its annual NSP financial report to their Regional Treasurer, who will in turn forward the annual report to the FWD Treasurer
2. An additional Use of College Funds financial report is required. This report identifies how any community college funds were used the prior year, and
3. Each patrol must sign another MOU each year for the following year.

It is the FWD and the SBRPSTC that administer these processes. The FWD distributes college funds to participating ski patrols based on recorded activity and receipt of funds. The FWD also works with the College and projects the next season's participation. This projection planning process ensures that core campus course take priority, and ski patrol course are only used only to fill any remaining FTES hours to meet the districts cap.

Where does my NSP Ski Patrol Representative start?

Since the program benefits both the State of California Colleges, serves the NSP Charter, and provides additional educational benefits to our members, the FWD encourages FWD ski patrols to participate in the College program per the FWD-patrol MOU.

FWD ski patrols interested in participation in this program should contact the FWD College Community Program Coordinator and Advisor, Nancy Stromswold, at **Stromswold@sbcglobal.net** or call 775 232-4465 cell.

Join other FWD Ski Patrols who are participating and benefiting from this win-win program. Currently only MotherLode Region and EasternSierra Region ski patrols are participating. However, The FWD can include Southern and Northern California ski patrols. Sorry, Arizona Region and Arizona and Nevada residents, you are not eligible to participate in this California State funded program.