

NSP 365 days a year

Friends and family often ask me why I am still doing that “ski patrol” stuff when it’s not snowing. I guess the simple answer is because it is So Much More – it’s a way of life for us. The NSP runs through our family from my very active patrolling husband up to his parents, then forward to the next generation with our youngest daughter, who first began as a junior patroller at age 10. The examples set forth for me to follow were to step up and volunteer, and not be afraid to jump up to leadership positions – that the rewards would be worth the work.

So when I joined Mad River Ski Patrol I volunteered for pretty much everything in the early years, from ski swap to banquet planning, to patrol room early clean up. I met great people along the way, and knew I was helping, but didn’t feel all that “rewarded”. Then I started teaching. First OEC, then Instructor Development, and more recently skiing. This is when the NSP truly came alive for me. First was the satisfaction of instructing, finding ways to turn the light bulb on, and get people excited about learning these important subjects, to feel the happiness of their successes along the way, to be part of broadening others’ scope of learning.

The next stretch was finding a way in my already busy life to take on more leadership opportunities. I became part of the Ohio Region first as Treasurer, and as a senior program evaluator and Instructor Trainer, then as region advisor for the OEC program, which introduced me to the next layer with the Central Division for many projects and events, where I met folks from other regions and from national. That involvement beyond my local patrol activities is what really opened my eyes. I met some of the most incredible people and formed relationships that integrated throughout my daily life. These are the people that are not only the most dedicated to excellence in all they do, but most willing to go the extra mile to help others.

Now I encourage you! Go out and make a difference in someone else’s life. Become a teacher, a mentor, and a friend to people you most likely would have never met otherwise. Join the women’s program and seek mentors to help you find your way. Inspire yourself, and thus inspire others. If you have only been at your local area, then this year do even one event at another area in the Ohio Region, such as one of the ski enhancement programs offerings – meet others that have similar interests as well as common challenges, make new connections. Expand your world just a bit this year – who knows where it might take you, 365 days a year!

Cheryl Raudabaugh

Patrolling since 1996, NSP LCA #8391
Central Division Administrative Assistant
OEC IT, ID IT, NSP-C Snow Sports School