

Rewards of Patrolling

By Rick Schieltz

Being on the Ski Patrol and helping other skiers when they are in need, provides personal satisfaction and often you do not know how much someone may appreciate your help because they usually leave soon to go to a medical facility for further treatment. Occasionally the patrol will receive a thank you card or someone will stop in the patrol room on their next visit to say thanks. One incident I will always remember happened on a Saturday afternoon when the temperature was nice and large fluffy flakes of snow were falling and providing a beautiful blank of snow on the hill. As I was standing about halfway down the main hill watching skiers come by, one skier fell and roller and stopped sitting up near me. I went over to see if he was hurt and saw that he was bleeding at his eyelid. After introducing myself and offering help I opened my first aid belt and got out a gauss pad to stop the bleeding. I then got two butterfly band aids to close the wound. While talking with him, he said that he was from out of town and was visiting friend here, and he normally did not ski at this area. I then advised him to go to the patrol room with me where I could further attend to him and he could rest a bit before continuing skiing. He said he felt fine and there was no way he was leaving the hill now while the skiing was so good. Therefore I said if you don't want to go in, let me put another dressing over the butterflies to protect them. After doing that, he headed off to continue skiing.

Two years later on another Saturday while skiing, a skier came up to me and said I don't know if you will remember me but you helped me on the hill when I skied here the last time. Well I did remember him and asked how he was doing. He told me that because of how I had helped him the day he got hurt, when he got back to his home ski area, he decided to join the patrol there. That was one of the best rewards I have received for my ski patrol activities, knowing that I inspired someone else to become a patroller.