No experience necessary — except skiing or snowboarding!

Do you rock a goggle tan deep into summer? Always catch the last chairlift? Daydream of bottomless powder all year long?

Thought so! Thousands of people like you have created amazing lives as ski and snowboard instructors. If working on the slopes sounds like your dream job, we’re here to help you get started.

We know that the process of finding work is way less fun than actually instructing out on the slopes. Here’s hoping this kit will speed up the “find work” part so you can get straight to teaching others and skiing and riding more this season.

See you out there!
Want to work on snow? Here’s how.

1. Get psyched.
What kind of instructor do you want to be?

ALPINE

TELEMARK

SNOWBOARD

CROSS COUNTRY

ADAPTIVE

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A CAREER OUT OF TEACHING?

“I went after CERTIFICATIONS pretty early in my career so that I could make a liveable wage, which helped a lot. Other than that, I just always tried to move forward. No matter what successes or failures I had, I tried to learn from them equally. I tried to put myself in situations I wasn’t sure I could do well in, so that I would be pushed to learn. I knew I loved snowboarding, and as long as I was moving forward with it in some aspect, good things would come in my teaching career.”

— NICK ALFIERI, PSIA-AASI TEAM (SNOWBOARD); SNOWBOARD LEVEL III, CHILDREN’S SPECIALIST 2

READ FULL STORY
Pick a state or region you’d like to work.

Check out this list of **U.S. SKI AND RIDE AREAS**.

Research and decide which ski and ride areas would be a good match for you.

**WORKING ON SNOW…**

- Makes you a better skier or rider
- Opens doors to other jobs in the outdoor industry
- Keeps you fit all winter long
- Connects you with others who share your passion
- Develops important career skills like:
  - Public speaking
  - Instruction
  - Independence
  - Dedication
  - Discipline
  - Professionalism
  - Communication
  - Group dynamics

**Where do you want to work?**

Search for jobs online.

Consult the **PSIA-AASI JOB BOARD**.

Visit the employment page at individual ski and ride area websites.

Still looking? **CONTACT PSIA-AASI** and explain that you’d like to become a member and learn more about getting started working as an instructor.
5 Apply!

Make sure you have the qualifications needed. Learn what resorts love about instructors on PAGE 8.

6 Work on your teaching, skiing and riding skills.

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Great skiers and riders make great instructors. Pick up a few tips from our video archives:

PSIA-AASI TIP OF THE DAY

REI & PSIA-AASI ADVANCED TECHNIQUES
Try out.

If required. Some resort ski and ride schools may host tryouts and others are handled simply through an application process.

Go pro by joining the PSIA-AASI community.

- Become a better teacher
- Become a better skier or rider
- Become more valuable to the resort you work at
- Better understand what your ski and ride school at the resort you work at expects
- Become certified

JOIN TODAY
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A CAREER OUT OF TEACHING?

“Well I did try working in an office and decided that wasn’t for me, so I guess that was the first step (realizing what I didn’t want). I’ve branched out into different industries; ski instruction and coaching in the winter and outdoor guide and trip designer in the summer months. Living in Steamboat I’m surrounded by people who follow their passions to live the lifestyle they want. This environment and support has made it easier to make my career happen.”

—EMILY LOVETT, PSIA-AASI TEAM (CROSS COUNTRY); CROSS COUNTRY LEVEL III

READ FULL STORY

A few questions to ask when applying:

• What kind of work will you have for me this season, and how many days can I expect to work?

• How soon after I join the team should I expect to start teaching?

• Does the school have an onboarding and/or training program?

• Does the school cover expenses for any personal development training time and support continuing education through organizations such as PSIA-AASI?

• Do you provide instructors with an area lift pass for the season?

• Do I have access to resources that help me maintain and tune my equipment?

• What other perks/discounts/deals do snowsports school employees receive?

• Who could I contact to get advice and better understanding about what it’s like to work here?
What resorts love about instructors:

- Ability to interact with guests on a professional level
- Ability to work with a minimum of supervision
- Excellent communication and listening skills
- A positive, flexible and enthusiastic attitude
- Ability to adapt, think quickly, and take initiative
- Intermediate to advanced skiing/riding ability
- What resorts love about instructors:
Where will I be working?
In the United States, there are more than 450 resorts and many of those have their own ski and snowboard school. Those resorts often employ part-time and full-time instructors, who teach people who want to learn or improve their skills. Ski schools and snowboard schools are sometimes separate entities.

Who will I be teaching?
Instructors teach children and adults of all ages and abilities. Most resorts offer both group lessons and private lessons.

What’s the best age to work as a ski or snowboard instructor?
Any age! Once you’re old enough to work legally in your state, the only experience that may be needed is your passion for skiing or riding.

When do resorts hire ski and snowboard instructors?
It depends on the part of the country you live in, so begin your search as early as possible. In the U.S., some areas can begin hiring as early as the summer months, other areas fill positions throughout the season.

How long does it take to get hired?
It depends on the resort and their specific hiring practice, so it’s best for you to check out the resort’s website and find out more details.

What’s the deal with getting certified?
If you’re looking to become a better teacher or for a way to turn your love of skiing and snowboarding into a legit career, pursuing a PSIA-AASI membership and certification is for you. Many ski and snowboard schools and resorts have a relationship with PSIA-AASI and encourage serious instructors to pursue membership and get certified. Learn from the best skiers and riders in the country, possibly get a bump in your pay, and earn a badge of honor that symbolizes your credibility and expertise and is universally recognized across the country.

I have additional questions. How do I learn more?
• Watch PSIA-AASI’s ENTRY LEVEL GUIDE MODULE.
• Use PSIA-AASI’s social media channels to ask current PSIA-AASI members that work as ski and snowboard instructors for tips and advice.
• Consider joining PSIA-AASI so you can meet current members working as instructors and talk to them in person about what it’s like to work as an instructor.

Become a PSIA-AASI Member at THESNOWPROS.ORG