**Welcome to Training:**

Welcome to the candidate training program for the Homewood Volunteer Ski Patrol (“HVSP”). Your instructor/trainers are seasoned professionals who will demonstrate, coach, encourage and challenge you to become your collective best. Across the season you will hone a variety of skills that we as “patrollers” use on a daily basis. From scene management to administering first aid, to transporting loaded toboggans, to opening and closing the mountain; our responsibilities are to deliver high quality pre-hospital care, while managing and maintaining the snow safety, signage, and ski area boundaries of the Homewood Mountain Resort.

Consistent attendance at the training weekends exposes you to the conditions we typically encounter over the course of a season, from fresh powder to hard pack to variable and uneven snow. It is the *exposure* and *practice* within these variable conditions that makes for high quality training and allows us to provide Homewood Mountain Resort (“HMR”) with excellent patrollers. We do it right here at Homewood, and the training you will receive will be both rigorous and challenging, but if you are willing to put the work in, you will be joining one of the most respected Ski Patrols in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Below is a list of “tips and tricks” that will help you have a successful candidate season:

1. Show up BY 7:15 AM and BEFORE 7:30 at the HVSP locker room.
2. Dress in layers. We will provide a *candidate vest* that you need to wear every day that you are training. Get a good waterproof and breathable shell (black) to wear beneath your candidate vest. Ski pants must also be (black) worn as part of your candidate and future standard patrol uniform. We highly recommend a moisture wicking base layer as you will perspire during training days.
3. Bring extra gloves in your backpack to Top Patrol so that you have dry gloves when your first pair inevitably gets wet from snow or perspiration.
4. We require wearing a helmet when patrolling. (black or white recommended)
5. Bring some type of lunch with you in your backpack. We usually eat after toboggan training at Top Patrol or other places that don't have food available. Bring a water bottle. Bottles don’t freeze whereas Camelback tubes often do. Stay hydrated.
6. Assume that once you get on a base lift, that you may not see the bottom of the mountain again until after 5:00 PM. That means bring whatever you need to be comfortable for the day (e.g. sunscreen, extra snacks, etc.).
7. You will NOT have much free time on training days so please don't plan on skiing with friends or family. If there is time in the afternoon or late in the season when we’ve accomplished most of our training goals we will try to accommodate some family and friends ski time but don’t expect much more than a run or two and it will likely be in a patrol group.
8. Please ask questions. The more you understand things as we go along the more confident you will be in taking on the responsibilities of patrolling the mountain. Our job is to ensure our Patrol Director that you can/will be relied upon as a critical asset to both the public and the mountain.

**Training Days, What to Expect:**

Now that we have given you a few “tips and tricks”, let us take you through a typical training day. The first phase of your training will concentrate on learning the areas specific OEC protocols, first aid equipment and use of the radios. This may or may not be the same as how you did things in your OEC class. It is important for you to do well in this training phase as our protocols at HMR superseded anything you may have been taught in your OEC class.

All on the mountain training days will operate as follows:

1. Be in the locker room by 7:15 AM (on snow days allow extra travel time). The entire Patrol needs to be signed in no later than 7:45 AM, so we expect you as candidates to be ahead of the rest of the Patrol and to be ready by 7:30 AM.
2. At approximately 8:00 AM we will have a morning safety meeting with the entire Patrol Staff during which we will get our opening assignments. As a candidate, you will be assigned to a patroller for an opening.
3. You will go with your assigned patroller and help complete the setup tasks in that area of the mountain (there are 4 areas, Lower North, Upper North, Lower South, Upper South).
4. When you are done with setup and at approximately 10 AM, you will go to Top Patrol. At that time, we will start sled training. We typically train until somewhere between 12-1 PM.
5. After sled training we will grab a quick lunch at Top Patrol. (Please bring your own lunch/snacks/water)
6. In the afternoon you will be paired with additional instructors/patrollers to learn other tasks. These tasks include learning area specific sweeps or potentially having a skills specific training session (knots, etc.).
7. At approximately 3:45 PM, patrollers will be sent to designated “pre sweep areas” as well as the upper mountain chairlifts (The Ellis chair and the Old Homewood Express) to call last chairs. These patrollers will load the upper mountain chairlifts at 4:00 PM sharp and call last chair to Top Patrol.
8. You will be given a sweep route (typically the sweep you learned that day), paired with a patroller and at approximately 4:15 PM or so, you will start sweeping the mountain. Once all routes have been swept and called, Top Patrol (Super Sweep), will proceed to the South Base Area on a Snowmobile. When they arrive, they will call the mountain "swept and clear"
9. Once the mountain is “swept and clear” you can remove your boots and change out of your candidate uniform. It is not uncommon for the patrol to hang out in the locker room with beverages and relax post “sweep” before heading home.

Every day on the mountain is unique. We look forward to guiding you through your candidate season and please feel free to contact any of your OET/OEC Instructor/Trainers with any questions

Your OET and OEC Instructor/Trainers