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YAP Program Essay

The young adult patroller program is definitely one of the most vital programs offered by the National Ski Patrol today. This is because the future of the organization will be dependent on the training, experience and leadership of the young men and women that make up the Young Adult Program. The program not only offers the chance for mentorship by senior patrollers but also allows YAP's an opportunity that most cannot seek anywhere else.

Through seminars and other programs offered at the home mountain young adult patrollers get some of the greatest opportunities to work hand in hand with some of the most experienced and seasoned patrollers in the country. For example at this past young adult seminar members of the national board of the NSP including the chairmen made a presence and made it a point to speak to the young adult patrollers who they know will one day be filling their shoes. Also on the home level young adult patrollers get some great training opportunities that cannot be found from taking a ski school lesson or reading an article. Speaking from personal experience I could not ski down a beginner trail in New Jersey when I first applied but due to the availability of opportunities to work with some of the best instructors in the National Ski Patrol I managed to become a Patroller in 2 seasons. If it was not for these special opportunities offered to a few committed young men and women the National Ski Patrol would not be as strong as it is today.

The most unique aspect of the Young Adult Program however is the fact that these young men and women get to actually serve as a patroller at their home resort. The experiences that a young adult patroller has at a young age is something that will stick with them for the rest of their lives whether it be as patrollers or as anything else that one may go off to be in life. The training aspect instills motivation and sense of pride and accomplishment while the aspect of working as a patroller gives a sense of responsibility, time management and self-control. Most importantly the interaction with people as both a host and an emergency care provider is one of the best ways to teach maturity, and strengthen one's ability to make quick leadership decisions in stressful environments.

For some, a passion for work just comes naturally, for the young men and women of the Young Adult Patrol Program they have found their passion at a very young age and are a key aspect to the future of the National Ski Patrol. These men and women are your future mountain leaders, patrol directors, and who knows what else. It is due to the opportunities and experience that that is provided to these young men and women that will clearly reflect its positive results in the next few years to come.