

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Eaglecrest Snowsports School Lessons 11.01.15

Eaglecrest Ski Area operates under the City and Borough of Juneau and is required under federal law to adhere to an equal access/non discrimination policy for all programs and buildings. The **Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC)** listed below outlines the *basic level of function necessary for any individual to participant in a class lesson product*.

Here is a list of guidelines for determining whether the guest meets this basic level of functioning:

- The guest must be at or above Level 3 skiing or Level 3 snowboarding (as described in the Eaglecrest Ski & Snowboard School brochure).
- The guest must be within the reasonable scope of the lesson (same terrain and speed as the rest of the group).
- The guest must not distract from the experience of other group lesson participants.
- The guest should not present a safety risk to themselves or others.

The purpose of our **Essential Eligibility Criteria** is to give our employees and our guests the information they need to make an accurate, objective assessment when deciding if an individual's abilities are appropriate for a group lesson format.

Group Lesson Inclusion Program and Assessment

Individuals that do not initially meet the essential eligibility criteria but would like to participate in a group lesson product must be assessed by an instructor or supervisor *prior* to being included in group lessons. This assessment will take place outside the Eaglecrest Snowsports School Window or in a 2 hour Adaptive Private Lesson. The 2-hour private lesson must be reserved in advance through the Snowsports School and will be charged at the normal group lesson rate. Individuals interested in the inclusion program will alert the instructor that they want an assessment for inclusion. The instructor will work with the guest and the guest's parents or guardian if appropriate to determine the best lesson placement. Lesson space is often limited, advanced reservations may be required.

If a guest does not meet the Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) standards after assessment by the instructor or a supervisor, there are three possible scenarios to allow the guest to participate in SnowSports School lessons:

- Full Inclusion: Inclusion into the group lesson with mild adaptation (ie. smaller class or an instructor with adaptive experience).
- Partial Inclusion: Inclusion into a group lesson with the assistance of a Ski Buddy provided by the Eaglecrest SnowSports School.
- Private Integration: Private Adaptive Lesson offered at the same rate as a group lesson. This Private Adaptive Lesson provides one-on-one instruction adapted to the special needs of the guest but also allows the guest to integrate with a group lesson throughout the day for socialization purposes. The instructor and student may meet a group of similar age and ability for 1 or 2 runs, without changing the normal operation of the group lesson or they may meet a group of similar age and ability for breaks to provide a social interaction experience for the student, without interrupting the normal social interaction of the group. *Please note*: Eaglecrest Ski Area is not required to provide this private service at a discounted rate or the rate equivalent to a class lesson. Doing so is an indication of our desire to provide the best possible experience for all of our guests and our commitment to providing inclusive ski experiences for guests with disabilities.

Inclusion is only successful if it does not fundamentally alter the flow of the original class product.

In any instance where a guest that does not meet the EEC is included into a group lesson, further assessment will take place *during the course of the lessons*. If the student cannot participate within the reasonable scope of the lesson; if the student distracts from the experience of other group participants; or if there is a safety risk to themselves or others, the Eaglecrest Snowsports School has the right to suggest an alternative program that may be better suited for the individual. Please remember that inclusion in the classroom is very different from inclusion in a Snowsports School.

Although every situation is unique to the individuals and groups involved, the above three scenarios (Full Inclusion, Partial Inclusion, and Private Integration) are possible ways to provide inclusion for those guests who cannot participate all day, or who may need a personalized level of inclusion. Remember that it is not necessarily the guest's choice to elect inclusion, but a collaborative effort between instructors, supervisors, and families to determine the most appropriate fit for the individual guest. All parties involved must be in agreement that the inclusion scenario not only benefits the guest in the inclusion program, but also does not fundamentally alter the program for all other guests as well. The Eaglecrest Snowsports School reserves the right to suggest an *alternative* inclusion scenario or no inclusion at all in cases where guests in the group lesson perceive that their lesson experience has been compromised by the inclusion.

Eligibility Criteria for Group Lesson Inclusion

There is a basic level of function that must be met by all individuals participating in ski or snowboard group lessons. For some individuals, this basic level of function can be achieved with additional assistance or other reasonable accommodation. The following **Eligibility Criteria** lists the most basic functions necessary to allow for the safe participation in a ski or snowboard group lesson format. Although this list is comprehensive, there may be situations and variables that do not appear below. The Eaglecrest Snowsports School reserves the right to determine additional criteria at any time based on individual situations not within the scope of this document. There are many different situations, individual needs and daily variables (such as weather, crowds, group dynamics, etc.) that make it impossible to list every form in which inclusion may take place. It is the goal of the Eaglecrest Snowsports School to provide a positive group lesson inclusion experience not only for the individual, but for all other guests participating in the group lesson product.

Physical Abilities

1. Basic Participation

The guest must be able to.....

- Properly put on and take off equipment, independently or with the assistance of a companion (level appropriate*).
- Load, ride and unload lifts safely, either independently or with the assistance of a companion. (level appropriate*).
- Ski or snowboard on level appropriate* trails and areas, to control speed and to return to the base area, either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Travel at the same rate of speed as the group, either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Get up after falling, re-adjust equipment as necessary and continue on with the group in a reasonable amount of time either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Attend lunch, visit restrooms, stop with the group on a trail or maneuver in a lift line either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Perform all functions of the lesson within a reasonable time frame (without holding up the movement of the entire group) either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Continue with the group throughout the day without causing detours in terrain selection, additional breaks or other changes in the normal course of the lesson plan as designed for the entire group.
- Follow "Your Responsibility Code," either independently or with the assistance of a companion.

Please note: Inclusion into group lessons is only available for students skiing or snowboarding at Level 3 or higher. Beginners and those unable to participate at this level may take a Private Adaptive Lesson.

**“Level Appropriate” refers to any terrain, snow condition, weather condition, snow surface or any other factor that a typical Level 3 or above student encounters. For a complete description of ski & snowboarding levels used at Eaglecrest Ski Area, please refer to the Snowsports School brochures at the Snowsports School window or visit the website at www.skijuneau.com.*

2. Safety Considerations

The guest must be able to.....

- Travel with the group at a similar rate of speed using the same basic turn shape as the group.
Example: If the group travels down the mountain slowly, links turns with a traverse and stops together at the side of the hill, the student with disabilities should be able to perform the same basic tasks, either independently or with the assistance of a companion. An example of unacceptable participation might be if the student with disabilities travels straight down the hill at a high rate of speed, disregarding the movement of the rest of the group, causing a safety risk for himself and those around him.
- Negotiate level appropriate terrain without hindering the experience of other lesson participants or causing risk to personal safety.
Example: If a student is signed up for a Level 5 intermediate skiing lesson, the group negotiates trails with the designated difficulty of green and easy blue at our mountains. Depending on weather, snow conditions, crowds and other factors, typical Level 5 students can ski successfully in a variety of natural situations occurring on the mountain. Students with disabilities should be able to negotiate the same terrain and conditions with or without the assistance of a companion.

Cognitive Abilities / Behavior

1. Basic Participation

The guest must be able to...

- Identify who the instructor is for the day, either independently or with the assistance of a companion or interpreter.
- Communicate personal needs to the instructor, either independently or with the assistance of a companion or interpreter.
- Follow directions as communicated by the instructor, either independently or with the assistance of a companion or interpreter.
- Socialize with a group of similar age and ability level students, without requiring extra attention from the instructor that distracts from his/her reasonable care of the entire group, either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Follow procedures for inadvertent separation from the group as outlined by the Eaglecrest Snowsports School, either independently or with the assistance of a companion.
- Maintain a reasonable level of willingness, desire and motivation to participate in the sport of skiing or snowboarding in a group lesson environment.

2. Safety Considerations

The guest must be able to.....

- Understand the cause and effect relationships in which an action or behavior may place the physical safety of himself or others at risk.
Example: Understanding that turning (either independently or with the assistance of a companion) controls the descent down the mountain, and failure to do so could result in an injury.

Example: Understanding that traveling too close to another student (either independently or with the assistance of a companion) may cause a collision with that person, which may result in injury.

- Maintain the amount of attention and focus necessary to participate in a changing outdoor mountain environment, while being cognizant of the environment and other people within the environment, for the duration of the lesson, either independently or with the assistance of a companion.

Personal Companion/ Ski Buddy Guidelines

A guest may have a companion or guide that assists them with their skiing or snowboarding lesson experience. Typically a companion is someone who knows the individual personally and has assisted in other experiences ranging from every day living to travel or other sports.

There are instances where a companion is actually detrimental to the safety and productive flow of a ski or snowboard lesson. Often times a parent, guardian, sibling or significant other has an established dynamic that disrupts the ski or snowboard instructor's ability to provide an effective lesson for the guest. The following is a list of reminders for companions when participating in a lesson with the Eaglecrest Snowsports School:

- The Ski Instructor is the primary decision-maker for class group and guest's inclusion experience.
- Companions that are not specially trained or are not Eaglecrest Adaptive Ski Buddies are allowed to participate in the inclusion program on a case-by-case basis.
- Companions must have an adequate ski or snowboard skill level (level 6 or above as outlined in the Eaglecrest Snowsports School brochure) so that they actually provide assistance to the instructor and do not become a liability or distraction to the group lesson.

Conclusion

All guests are welcome and valued Eaglecrest Snowsports School. Our goal is to provide a professional level of care and service that creates the best possible experience for each and every individual visiting the Ski Area. The guidelines presented in this document are designed to help guests, their family members and their specially trained instructors make the best decisions for all parties concerned. It is not possible to list every scenario that may occur and we recognize that every person is unique, valued and important. We hope that we will be able to accommodate every guest and invite them to enjoy and explore Eaglecrest Ski Area.

¹ Joanna Hall Steamboat Ski School /Ruth DeMuth Vail Adaptive program 2006©