



Track 3 Instructors and Boler Mountain School Groups

Thank you for being available to work with special needs students (elementary and secondary) as they ski on their school field trip at Boler Mountain. It is very fun and exciting for the students and they get so much out of it. They certainly have the feeling of inclusion as they have the opportunity to ski / snowboard with their peers.

Classroom teachers identify some students that may require extra assistance to make this a fun and safe skiing/snowboarding learning experience. The Boler School Group special needs students may or may not be Track 3 registered students (students who are already registered through the 6 week Track 3 program). When a school group is in need of a T3 instructor, Boler Mountain communicates this to the Track 3 School Group Coordinator who then recruits an appropriate T3 instructor for the school group. Track 3 Instructors are considered employed by Boler Mountain for the day and hence insurance for the Volunteer is assumed by Boler Mountain Ski School not the Track 3 Program. Please see the next section on employment process.

Employment Process:

When you arrive at the Boler Mountain Main Chalet, you will identify yourself with the front desk as the Track 3 Instructor. You will be shown where to sign the sign in/out sheet which is completed upon arrival and departure on this and subsequent days. You will receive your complimentary lift pass. As this is a Paid position (minimum wage), on the first time instructing, you will need to come a little earlier to the chalet to fill in payroll information with Boler Mountain customer service representatives. You will need to have available your SIN# and a void cheque (on-line confirmation of your account works also).

If more than one instructor is required for the day, you will meet your other Track 3 instructors on the main floor. Once you meet up with the other instructors and students, you will decide amongst yourselves which student you will work with. Basic information about the students may be sent in the original email requesting Track 3 instructors.

Background Information on School Groups

The school group program is aimed to promote safety, physical activity, group participation and a positive appreciation towards outdoor winter activities. The school procedure is as follows: The school bus arrives and all students and teachers go upstairs to the cafeteria for their information session and to receive their lift passes. They will slowly filter downstairs to start their ski day; usually the first ones to leave the cafeteria are those students with their own equipment, and then the students that are renting equipment. Each student is having a lesson. There are 6 Stations that students are required to complete successfully in order to achieve the privilege of skiing independently.

Stations 1-3: The progression of the lessons for a brand new, never-skied-before-student, is a group lesson, taught by Boler instructors, to learn the basics of “this is a ski, this is how to put it on/take it off, and this is a snow plow to stop you”. From there, they proceed to the beginner hill and Boler instructors at this station teach them about the Magic Carpet Lift, speed control/stopping and turns on the small hill. When they can show that they are able to stop/turn on Willie’s Bowl, they receive one check mark on their lift pass and can proceed to the next station. If a student chooses, they may now ski Willie’s Bowl independently, but further steps are needed for access to the rest of the hill.

Station 4: Students proceed with a Boler Instructor to the chairlift and learn the chair lift procedures. The instructor will take them down Easy Street and if they are able to complete this run in control, they receive a second check mark and proceed to Station 5. Two check marks mean they are able to ski Easy Street (not Elbow) and Willie’s Bowl on their own.

Station 5 and 6: There are two set-courses, one on Rub-a-Dub and one on Hill 55. The Boler Instructors examine the students’ ability to complete the course in control and then give “one dot” for Rub-A-Dub and “two dots” for Hill 55. One dot means they are able to ski on the green and blue runs only. Two dots mean they can ski on green, blue and black runs on the main hill – not the West Hill. School programs are not allowed in the Terrain Park or on Rusty’s. Students who are capable of skiing the west hill are given another test and receive a third dot.

You can view a video clip from Boler’s website at <http://www.bolermountain.com/groups/> about the school group process.

How does the Track 3 Instructor fit into this process with the special needs student?

The goal is to follow the Boler school group process/stages as closely as possible. Most of the students that have requested the Track 3 Instructors will be skiing with their special Track 3 Instructor (Ski buddy) for the entire day. The students are able to receive check marks and dots also. Boler Instructors are very accommodating to the inclusion of the Track 3 students and are happy to give out check marks and dots to the student who is accompanied by the Track 3 Instructor – even if the student didn’t quite qualify for it. Some of the sit ski students have received 3-4 dots for completing the course in the sit ski! Even if the student is tethered and goes through the course, the Boler Instructor will give out dots. The goal is inclusion. It is accepted that the student will always be skiing with supervision.

When you arrive (and possibly greet other Track 3 Instructors), the first objective is to find the teacher-in-charge and the student. Depending on the situation and / or needs of the student, they may meet you in the main lobby or you can go upstairs and meet them in the group. The teacher or parent / volunteer will be able to give you more information about the specific needs and abilities of the student. Pick up a lift pass for your student from Boler staff. You should have picked up one for yourself when you signed in.

The next objective is to have your student go through the rental shop before the rest of the students get there. It is quieter and easier to gear up the special needs students in the rental shop. The rental shop employees are very obliging to the special needs students and if there is a line-up, make your way

through and they will take you first. It is good to know the student's teacher's name as the rental shop has a list of names with height/weight for setting the skis. Once your student's skis have been assigned, use the black sharpie markers to put the number of the skis on the lift tag to prevent confusion with the many other rental skis in the racks. Once you have the student equipped, as the Track 3 Instructor, you are now able to work with the student on the hills, starting off at the beginner hill, Willie's Bowl and progressing from there.

Special Needs Equipment: Usually there is one set of tethers at the main chalet which can be used for ankle tethering. If other equipment is required, there is a Track 3 key available at the front desk. The combination for the equipment room is with the Track 3 key.

Breaks/Lunch. Depending on the instructor and student's wishes, you may choose to stay or not stay with your student over lunch. If not, make sure that they are with the designated teacher and indicate when/where you will meet them after the break.

Remember, you are the special ski buddy for that student while they are at Boler. Remember also that the duty of care is increased as the age or cognitive/physical ability of the student is decreased. Ensure if you are not with them that they have been turned over to the care of their teacher or designated care giver. The student is never on the hill by themselves.

If there are more students than instructors, have students remain with the teacher or educational assistant while you work with individual students. If the special needs student can be taught by 1 instructor for 2 students (determined after their individual evaluation), you may be able to team up students. This will be dependent on each student and instructor's capability and comfort level. Let Boler Staff know about any concerns that you have with students or student/instructor ratios.

Your day is finished, when the students depart on the bus or when they have been returned to the care of their teacher / parent volunteer. Don't forget to sign out at the main desk.

Please contact the Track 3 School Group Coordinator or the Track 3 Board if you have any questions or concerns. Sharing your love of skiing / snowboarding with the students is greatly appreciated!

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Track 3 School Group Procedures