

Myron B. Allen
PERSONAL STATEMENT

Among NSP's challenges, two are pressing and persistent: (1) recruitment and retention of members, especially during a pandemic, and (2) improvements to the database. Many talented people have made headway on these challenges, but work remains.

(1) Recruitment and retention of members: We especially need to recruit from three under-tapped talent pools: women, young people who love outdoor activities, and people of color. NSP's educational programs are huge assets and can form the nucleus of a focused, national marketing program aimed at outdoor-oriented women and people of color, aspiring guides, and outdoor enthusiasts with young families. In addition, NSP can develop guidance, assistance, and marketing materials for individual patrols, to help attract nontraditional candidates to our courses and curricula.

(2) Improvements to the database: Since NSP is an educational organization, our credentialing systems need to be supremely reliable and to work well for our remarkable volunteer instructors, instructor trainers, and program officers. I propose establishing annually rotating focus groups of active instructors from all NSP disciplines, to review NSP's database and formulate recommendations for continuous improvement. In addition, it is not too early to start planning for the next generation of NSP's database, developing a time line and a thorough appraisal of the existing system's successes and shortcomings.

I believe I can offer three personal assets to help address these challenges and to advance NSP's mission.

- Understanding of the organization: As an active instructor in OEC, Avalanche, MTR, and Nordic/Backcountry, I have gained a detailed, working appreciation of the organization's educational mission and the importance of developing and supporting our instructors.
- Leadership experience: As a national program director for NSP's MTR program and through my professional experience as an educator, university administrator, and nonprofit board member, I have learned—and am still learning—how to lead large enterprises with complex budgets, strategic plans, and knowledgeable, committed stakeholders.
- Broad perspectives: As an active Alpine Patroller and Nordic Master, I see NSP from many on-the-ground perspectives, including in-bounds emergency management, extended backcountry care, training candidates and experienced patrollers, mentoring new instructors, and designing highly effective outdoor curricula.

During the past decade, two special experiences have deepened my commitment to NSP:

- From 2010-2015 I worked with other MTR, Avalanche, and OEC instructors in the Rocky Mountain Division to deliver ski-mountaineering training to teams of U.S. Army Special Forces ("Green Berets"). These field sessions were personally rewarding, and they represented an unusual opportunity for NSP to serve our nation.
- Since 2014, I have served as national program director for Mountain Travel & Rescue. In this role, I have worked with an incredibly dedicated team of division-level MTR supervisors to update the MTR Instructors' Manual, enhance the relevance and rigor of the MTR curriculum, and ensure that MTR courses articulate closely with the needs of allied programs, especially the Avalanche and Nordic/Backcountry programs.

I regard service on the board of directors as the best way to raise my NSP contributions to the next level.