



# NEWS RELEASE

## National Ski Patrol

### Abbadessa Named NSP National Young Adult Program Coordinator

**March 31, 2008—Lakewood, Colorado**—The National Ski Patrol (NSP) Board of Directors has named Matthew Abbadessa coordinator for the organization's renewed National Young Adult Program. Abbadessa will work with the NSP to provide resources to local and regional youth patrol programs and facilitate communication, visitation and events for youth patrollers on a national level. In addition he'll support existing and new youth programs, initiate national recruitment and training campaigns, and gather best practices from around the country.

"The NSP has a long history of youth involvement, and we're excited about the rekindling of a national young adult program," said NSP Planning Committee Chair David Ginley. "Matt has important experience as a young adult patroller, and has shown a true passion and vision for the program. He has boundless energy to contribute."

Abbadessa has been involved in the NSP Eastern Division Young Adult Patroller Program as an alpine patroller at Pennsylvania's Big Bear/Jack Frost ski areas since 2005 and served on the NSP Recruitment and Retention Committee during the 2007/08 season. He's also held numerous leadership positions as a member of the Boy Scouts of America for six years, working with both children and adults.

"Our goal is to develop one-of-a-kind events, programs and campaigns for young adults to take part in that will allow them to become active and involved members and future leaders in the National Ski Patrol," said Abbadessa. "Young adult patrollers are the future leaders of the NSP."

Young adult patrol programs aimed at high school students aged 15-18 are common at the local and regional levels of the NSP. Participants receive training in NSP programs including Outdoor Emergency Care and toboggan handling, and, under the tutelage of adult patrollers, become working on-hill patrollers. The NSP National Young Adult Program was reinstated during the 2007/08 ski season after a 15-year hiatus.

#### About the National Ski Patrol

The National Ski Patrol is a Federally Chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 70 years, the NSP has been at the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs. The association's 27,000 members represent 98 percent of the nation's patrollers. For more information access [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org).

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