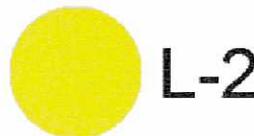


SKI



L-1

Never skied before



L-2

Can stop and make turns on easiest beginner slope. Learning to connect turns. Not ready to explore green trails on the mountain



L-3

Linking turns. Ready to explore ALL green slopes and trails on the mountain.



L-4

Mostly parallel turns on all green runs; comfortable on all blue runs in any condition. Willing to venture onto some groomed black runs. Not ready for off-piste or faster skiing on black runs.



L-5

From comfortable on all black runs in most conditions to venturing into more advanced chutes and steps in challenging conditions. Able to connect short turns on any run.

SNOWBOARD

Never ridden before

Can stop and make turns on easiest beginner slope. Learning to connect turns. Not ready to explore green trails on the mountain

Linking turns. Ready to explore ALL green slopes and trails on the mountain.

Linking turns on all blue runs in any condition. Willing to venture onto some black runs. Not comfortable off-piste or doing jumps and tricks; willing to learn

From comfortable on all black runs in most conditions to venturing into more advanced chutes and steps in challenging conditions. Ready to explore big mountain and freestyle moves

Guide to Skier Ability Level Color Assignment

Ability level or color (red, yellow, green, blue, black) is not specifically correlated to the color of the terrain on which the student is skiing or riding, but rather is tied to a certain skill set the student should already have or is developing, e.g. a skier skiing on a blue run is not necessarily a blue ability level skier. (We mention this because it is commonly misunderstood by many of our guests). With this guide parents should have a workable guide of the actual skiing skills necessary to place their child appropriately within a lesson. Our instructors are all trained to recognize these skills and make the appropriate student assignments and adjustments within classes. This process is generally completed by the end of the second week of class. We can continue to adjust as needed, but we do have to manage these adjustments on the basis of on-hill safety, instructors' skills evaluation and class sizes. Student evaluation of their own skill set is often skewed by parental desires, peer pressure, wanting to be with certain friend(s), and the general "status" associated hierarchy of ability colors. We certainly understand and want to meet these needs as much as we can, but in some cases they don't align with safe and effective learning. We are happy to assist parents who may be unsure of how to place their student on the right ability color.

Generally the skiing ability colors follow these skill sets which are summarized below. Please realize that these are progressively achieved without hard and fast timing. Student safety and a fun experience are our primary concerns within all of these skills:

Red - Those who have never skied, have skied once to three times, and must learn to effectively turn in either direction (in order to slow themselves) and must learn to stop completely in a skier's wedge position. Once these skiers can perform these basic skills, they are introduced to the chair lift (Chickadee) and progress to yellow level.

Yellow - Those skiers who can turn and stop effectively and safely on easy terrain (e.g. Chickadee) from a skier's wedge, and are able to link their wedge turns from turn to turn. Skiers will learn to initiate their turns from a wedge and match their skis parallel to one another at the end of the turn during this phase before progressing on to Green.

Green - Skiers will continue to practice and improve turning from a wedge with the parallel matching of skis at the end of the turn, and will be able to link turns with this match. They will then learn to match skis sooner in the turn, learn skidded or christy turns, and skidded parallel hockey stops. Once these skills have been mastered, the use of poles is introduced along with the basic parallel turn. Before our students move to the Gad Valley lifts from Chickadee Lift they should be able to do a hockey stop and skidded basic christy turn. Before the student moves to the blue ability level, he/she should be able to make parallel turns without wedge turn initiation most of the time.

Blue - Skiers continue to develop their basic parallel turns to the point where fall back to the wedge turn initiation is very seldom used. All students should have mastered the skidded hockey stop. The use of a pole touch to initiate the parallel turn is introduced and practiced. Typically this skier is taught on groomed blue terrain with increased level of terrain difficulty. Some off trail skiing is taught and skiers may progress to easier groomed black terrain once they have cemented their parallel skiing skills. The time spent in blue level may span several seasons. Mileage, experience, and the honing of parallel skiing skills is necessary before moving to black.

Black - These skiers have mastered the parallel turn and ski most of the mountain. They can ski short, medium, and long radius dynamic parallel turns with confidence, and use those skills as appropriate to navigate most black and expert mountain terrain both on and off trail. This level is attained with continued education, mileage, and exposure to increasingly difficult terrain and conditions.