



My name is Jeremy Briggs, I'm 30 years old and I've been working as a snowboard & ski instructor for 9 seasons. I have my CASI level 3, APSI ski level 3, and adaptive level 1. I've been working back to back seasons, since I started in 2019, between Australia and Canada. I'm applying to the Sodergren Scholarship for the snowboard category to take my snowboard level 4. I was fortunately able to take both the courses last year, but I would love the opportunity to take them again to refine my knowledge as I'm taking the exam this season. I want to complete the level 4 to gain the opportunities to take on more roles as a trainer and course conductor to give back the knowledge I've learnt to a larger audience.

I got my first introduction into instructing in Canada. My first time in Canada was for the 2019-2020 season and I completed my level 1 in both snowboarding and skiing that season. I was instantly taken with the people, both that I taught lessons to and worked with, everyone had so much passion for life on snow. I was determined to continue that life out on snow as long as I could. Unfortunately it was 2020 and by March we were all headed home, into a different world.

I'd planned to work at Falls Creek in 2020, but the lockdowns made that impossible. I ended up working at a very small resort called Charlotte Pass where I learned so much about myself in a challenging season of poor snow, minimal training and limited work opportunities. I remember turning up to line ups on my days off in uniform just hoping to teach a lesson, I knew from then on all I wanted was to be an instructor.

I show commitment to my training and development by taking every opportunity I can to improve. There wasn't a lot of training available in 2020, but when possible I would snowboard and ski with anyone to learn and grow my knowledge. I even reached out to the APSI office asking if they were running any level 2 courses that season, unfortunately as far I'm aware none did. I took that same mentality into every season that followed. This drove me to complete my level 3 in both snowboarding and skiing, diversify by taking the adaptive level 1 and now to keep pushing for the level 4 snowboard.

For me one thing that I've always felt is important for the role of an instructor is to be open minded and willing to learn. Sometimes this means taking my next ski exam, which is directly rewarded with more work and often a pay raise. Sometimes it's less obvious things like having a conversation with someone in the locker room. The benefits of these social bonds we make can make a massive difference to everyone as it builds a welcoming environment. This is particularly important in such a transient industry. It has been a natural step for me to take my adaptive certification, this gave me the tools to make a greater number of people comfortable in the harsh environment of snow.

From the day I went to my level 1 results and felt the anxiety and self-doubt that has been consistent at every level I've done, I've wanted to support others in this industry. This desire to help others has led me to give my free time. Sometimes as a participant in a practice lesson, more recently working as a trainer. It's been an amazing experience to run level 1 snowboard courses in Canada this last season, which has given me a great insight into the other side of course results. It's been an emotional opportunity to provide what empathy I can in these stressful times for candidates.

As a snowsports instructor I show professionalism by creating environments where everyone is comfortable and free from judgement. Through my trainers and friends in snowsports I've been able to see what a difference the right environment makes, that's what inspires me to strive to give back and constantly improve. My belief is to treat everyone regardless of their experience with respect. That's how I measure my professionalism, in how well I can create and help to encourage those environments. This also means creating a psychologically and physically safe space for everyone.

So far in my snowsports career I have diversified my education with skiing and adaptive knowledge in order to learn from multiple perspectives. I've also had the opportunity to mentor another snowboard instructor as part of the Women In Skiing program at Sun Peaks. This was a great chance to focus on the development of someone beyond the normal scope of riding and teaching. I took this opportunity to share my experience with a new instructor just joining the industry, in the hope that we can encourage women to stay in the industry and pursue higher certification. This is important as women and minority groups are severely under-represented in the higher levels of certification in snowsports.

In the future I plan to stay in the snowsports industry, this is my career. I see the level 4 Snowboard as the next big step in that. Completing the courses and exams, regardless of the result, will help me improve myself. I see this as a continuation of my growth as an instructor that will give me the skills to offer more back to the industry. My long term goal is to complete my level 4 snowboard and continue on the evaluator pathway to the highest levels. I also see the ways we can improve our industry by giving opportunities to minority groups to have access to snowsports and give everyone the opportunity to follow their dreams.

So all I need now is another helping hand to take the next step in my journey, to the level 4, to learn the tools I need to help so many more people and secure my career in the industry.