



Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

**Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular
December 4-7, 2023**

Clinic Summary Notes

Clinic Topic: Blind Guiding Basics – Alex Davenport

1. Vision and physical assessments are imperative to lesson success. Assessments should be conducted indoors and outdoors. The date of visual impairment onset is important. Determine what usable vision the student does have and how you can incorporate that into the guiding experience. Bring up safety early and often.
2. Building trust and rapport is the most important part of the guide/skier relationship. That relationship starts the moment we meet our students. Practicing guiding and walking indoors and outdoors translates to trust on the hill.
3. Snow and weather conditions can dictate lesson success. Gain and build upon guests' prior experience on and off the snow. Be wary of light conditions on snow and avoid going in and out of shaded areas.
4. Guiding systems – Refer to chapter 5 of the Adaptive Alpine Technical Manual. Base your guiding experience off the guests' previous experience and do not pigeonhole your student into a system you prefer.
5. Whatever method chosen for the day, keep it consistent. Consistent language, measures and directions are critical throughout the guest experience. Avoid conversational language while guiding.
6. Decide how to choose guiding from the front, back or side. Consider what the student prefers and what method may be best for them to meet their goals. If the student has paralympic aspirations, where should you guide from?
7. Guiding and teaching can be two separate experiences. Based on your student's goals, plan your day accordingly. Consider changing light conditions throughout the day.