



## **Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy**

**Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular**

**December 8-11, 2025**

### **Clinic Summary Notes**

**Clinic topic:** Focused Teaching: Lessons for Guests with Low or No Vision

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1. Important information to find out from your VI student:
  - a. Cause of Vision Diagnosis and when it occurred.
  - b. Have they skied/ridden before and to what extent?
  - c. What are your goals?
  - d. How do you like to be guided?
  - e. What is the biggest challenge with your VI diagnosis in your skiing/riding?

Get more details on this assessment process in the: *PSIA Adaptive Alpine Technical Manual*, Pages 67 to 81

2. Guiding Styles most commonly used :
  - Side by Side/Hand in Hand for snowboarding = Suitable for slower speeds, can give VI-guest more reassurance. Often implemented to get used to verbal guiding in congested areas and getting off lifts. It can also be used for teaching segments.
  - From the Back = The guide skies/rides behind the VI guest, allowing the instructor to see the VI-skier, terrain in front, traffic, and gives verbal commands. May be a safer option for both, especially if the guest has very low or no vision.
  - From the Front = Most often used if the VI guest has some vision so the person can follow the guide, often in conjunction with some auditory cue such as tapping ski poles, clicker, ping, or whistle. Guiding from the front is required in race competition for all visually impaired skiers. Front guiding can allow a skier to hear verbal cues from the guide better and auditory feedback from the guide's skis.

**Always focus on safety of the student and instructor as well as the general public. Guiding styles might have to be adjusted according to circumstances.**