

Ski Patrol

by Dina McClellan

The men and women of the ski patrol do important work. They risk their lives to keep people safe.

Blizzards

One job of the ski patrol is to help people in blizzards. Blizzards are bad news for skiers. Strong winds can make skiers fall. Ice and snow make it hard for them to see.



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READ & RESPOND

Identify Claim

Reread the first two sentences. What is the author's claim? Remember that a claim is an opinion.



Avalanches

Avalanches happen when a huge chunk of snow slides down a mountain. People can get trapped inside the snow. They need help to get out.

The ski patrol has dogs. They are trained to find people in the snow. First the dogs find where the people are trapped. Then the ski patrol works fast to dig them out.

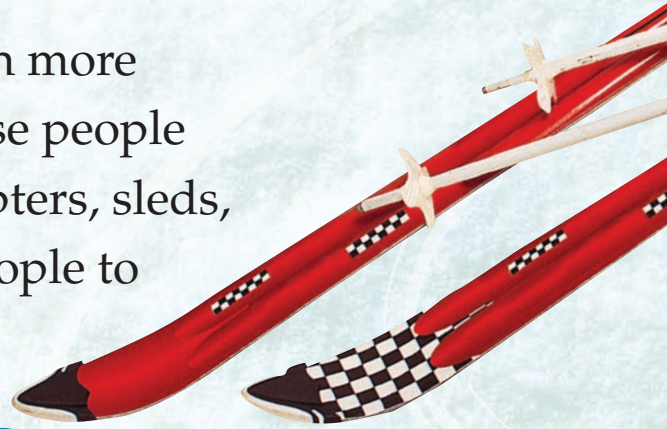
READ & RESPOND

Identify Claim

What evidence does the author give on this page to support her claim that the men and women of the ski patrol risk their lives?

What happens after a person is dug out? The person may be hurt. The ski patrol is trained to do first aid. They give care on the spot.

Some hurt people need even more help. The ski patrol moves these people off the slopes. They use helicopters, sleds, and snowmobiles. They get people to a hospital fast!



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READ & RESPOND

Identify Claim

How does the information on this page help the author prove her claim?



Snow Gear

The men and women of the ski patrol have special equipment. They always wear bright clothing. That way people can recognize them.

Skiers should wear bright clothing, too. If they are lost, bright clothing increases their chances of being seen. Then they can get help.

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Main Ideas and Details

Why should people wear bright clothing in the snow?

Ski Patrol Schedule

Mornings are busy for the ski patrol. They check mountain trails. They mark spots that aren't safe. They warn people about dangers that may occur at such a high altitude.

During the day, the ski patrol checks trails again. They look to see if anyone is lost, hurt, or trapped.



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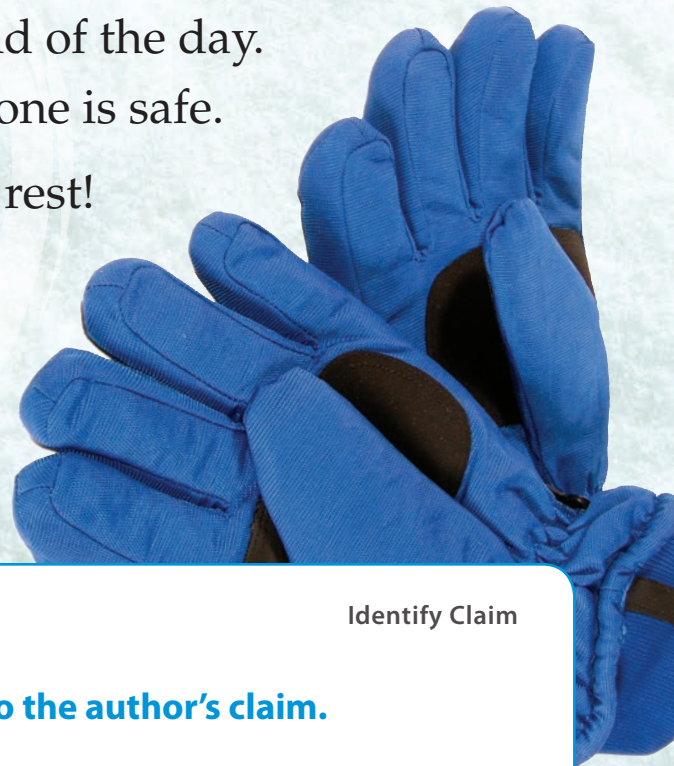
READ & RESPOND

Identify Claim

Does the information on this page support the author's claim that the ski patrol does important work? Explain.



The ski patrol works long hours.
They must be sure that every skier is off
the mountain at the end of the day.
They make sure everyone is safe.
Only then can they rest!



READ & RESPOND

Identify Claim

Explain how this information connects to the author's claim.

Things a Skier Might Need

Large orange plastic bag

This can attract attention. You can also climb into it to stay dry.

Ski helmet

This can protect your head while you ski.

Whistle

This can attract attention. Three blasts is a signal for help.



Compass

This helps you find your way if you are lost.

Goggles

These are important for seeing in the bright snow.

Fleece vest

This helps you stay warm.



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READ & RESPOND

Text and Graphic Features

Why do you think the author wrote this information in a list?

Reread and Respond



1 What do the headings in this text tell you about?

Hint

To answer this question, look on pages 186, 187, 189, and 190.

2 What is page 187 mostly about?

Hint

Look at the heading.

3 How does the ski patrol help people who are hurt?

Hint

For a clue, see page 188.