



Backcountry Ski School Instructor

About Bluebird Backcountry

Bluebird Backcountry is the first and only fully human-powered, inbounds backcountry ski area in the country. With a mission to make backcountry skiing safer and easier to learn, our operation features a 1,200-acre avalanche-evaluated and ski-patrolled area with zero chairlifts. Guests come to try backcountry skiing, develop their backcountry skills, and explore new terrain in a relatively safe, welcoming, social, and COVID-mitigated backcountry environment. In short, we bring together the comforts of a ski resort, the expertise of a guide service, and the adventure of the true backcountry. We are located on the Continental Divide in Colorado, halfway between Kremmling and Steamboat Springs (just over a 30-minute drive from both).

Our team has a welcoming, energetic, get-it-done culture. We are excited to introduce a new way to think about skiing... and to see just how far we can take the Bluebird Backcountry concept.

Our Education Program is the core of Bluebird Backcountry. For many participants, Bluebird will be their very first taste of the backcountry. During our test seasons in 2019 and 2020, we taught an *Intro to Backcountry* lesson to more than 500 students. For our upcoming 2020–21 season, we're excited to expand our suite of educational programs. We are developing curricula and intend to teach refresher courses, intermediate backcountry skills, and AIARE programs such as Rec 1, Rec 2, and Companion Rescue, among others.

Job Summary

We're looking for qualified instructors who are experienced, enthusiastic backcountry skiers and splitboarders. We need folks who are excited to make backcountry skiing and splitboarding more welcoming and accessible. The ideal candidate:

- Is an excellent off-piste skier/rider with at least 5 seasons of backcountry skiing or splitboarding experience
- Possesses AIARE Level 1-Rec avalanche education (or equivalent)
- Is familiar with Bluebird Backcountry, our mission, and our goals
- Has previous coaching or teaching experience
- Has excellent verbal communication skills
- Is able to work collaboratively in a small grassroots environment
- Is available on as many of dates during our 2020–21 season as possible. We are hiring for both
- The season will run from approximately December 24, 2020 to March 28, 2021.
- Has a passion for backcountry skiing and sharing the sport!

Duties

- Act as a Bluebird Backcountry ambassador—and be ready to help with mountain safety and provide information to guests when asked
- Uphold, promote, and support the Bluebird Backcountry vision of fostering a community of passionate backcountry skiers and riders
- Instruct a variety of levels of skiers or snowboarders while placing guest safety as the highest priority
- Assist in forming groups by matching students' abilities and skill levels
- Attend a morning meeting, held at 9:30am on each open day, to discuss conditions and logistics for the day
- Attend a post-lesson debrief with other instructors

- Wear a Bluebird-branded jacket (provided), along with modeling appropriate layering and outerwear for students
- Carry a backcountry pack containing avalanche rescue gear, as well as a first aid kit and extra snacks and layers
- Deliver Bluebird Backcountry curriculum to groups of participants, many of whom have never been on a touring setup before. Curriculum includes (but is not limited to): Using your gear, efficient backcountry travel, backcountry etiquette (including LNT), and Identifying avalanche terrain
- What's outlined here is just an overview—duties will evolve throughout the day and the season

Location

Bluebird Backcountry is located halfway between Kremmling and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. All courses will take place within Bluebird Backcountry's leased area, in some cases in-bounds and in other cases out of bounds. The property is entirely unimproved, and the skiing is more variable and adventurous than manicured or groomed. Lessons are generally taught on moderate terrain both on the way up and the way down.

Compensation

Full- and part-time roles are available.

- \$120/day
- You're welcome to ski or ride for free on the mountain after your lessons for the day have finished

To Apply: Email jobs@bluebirdbackcountry.com with "Backcountry Ski School Instructor" in the subject line. Please send a resume (including details on your backcountry skiing or splitboarding experience) and a cover letter that answers the question: Why is backcountry education important to you?