

From the Climbing Instructor Program Director

Greetings All:

It has been another busy year in the Climbing Instructor Program. While all the numbers are not finalized for 2012, enough data is in to make a reasonably accurate comparison of last year to this year. Based on the total number of attendees taking Climbing Wall Instructor courses, and Single Pitch Instructors courses and assessments, the program grew by 2.9%. At first glance that number appears to indicate minor growth, however, the total number of attendees for 2011 was 1019 and 1049 for 2012. Clearly, the programs continue to be strong and in high demand. Individually the number of attendees on CWI courses was up 20.5% with SPI courses up 10.4% and SPI assessments down 6.6%. So congratulations to the 187 individuals who received CWI certifications and the 263 who received SPI certification in 2012. Being a number geek, I found it interesting that of the 263 SPI certifications, approximately 24% went to individuals who were renewing their SPI certifications.

New For 2013

By far the biggest change in the SPI program is that Adam Fox has stepped aside as SPI Discipline Coordinator. As many of you know, Adam was the driving force behind transitioning from the TRSM to the SPI. He achieved his goal of creating a climbing instructor program that met international standards when the SPI program received the endorsement of the UIAA as meeting their standard for the training outdoor educators in 2009. While he will continue to work on a couple of projects for the AMGA, he will be making his home in New Zealand. His contributions were enormous and his energy and dry wit will be missed. Cheers Adam.

A job announcement for the SPI Discipline Coordinator will be posted after the first of the year. The goal is to have a new DC in place in the first quarter of 2013.

One significant change for 2013 is that the option to petition for an exemption from taking the SPI course and go straight to the assessment will no longer be available. Anyone who has completed a course in or is certified in the AMGA rock discipline is eligible to take the SPI assessment without having to take the SPI course. Also, former AMGA TRSMs and individuals who have allowed their SPI certification to expire can still go straight to the assessment.

Provider Training Opportunities

For individuals interested in becoming either CWI or SPI Providers there are a couple of training opportunities available in early 2013. Joe Lentini will be running a CWI Provider training on February 4 and 5 at the Boston Rock Gym. An SPI Provider training will be held in Joshua Tree National Park March 21 and 22. Interested and qualified individuals should contact me shortly after the first of the year. Please note: a prerequisite for applying to become a member the SPI Provider Pool is that the applicant has, at a minimum, successfully completed the AMGA Rock Instructor Course. The best way to contact me is by email: ed@amga.com. I can be reached by phone also at 303-271-0984 x 4.

Enjoy the holidays and have a Happy New Year.