



## **Expectations of a Volunteer Saw Instructor-in-Training (VSI-T)**

- Participate, observe, and help organize **PCTA saw training and certification events** to the maximum extent possible. This includes training and certification events, 103 Basic Saw Crew Training, 104 Intro to Chain Saw, and 297 chain saw practicums (if pursuing a Chain Saw VSI designation as well). This participation supports the local saw program, allows for saw experience with other instructors, and helps VSI-T's gain experience in instructing. VSI-Ts should strive for three such events per year, with the caveat that some VSI-Ts may not have as many opportunities given geographic restrictions.
- Develop saw skills and **obtain a C-level** saw certification (bucking) in either crosscut or chain saw. While crosscut certification is often completed first, this is not a requirement.
- Utilize the VSI-T Task Booklet, and **obtain signatures** for completed tasks.
- Plan to **travel outside of the local area** at least once per year for the first two years of training to gain experience with other VSIs, and learn from their styles of teaching and saw techniques. PCTA supports VSI-T travel with logistics and reimbursement of certain expenses, following PCTA's Volunteer Instructor Reimbursement Policy. Traveling also helps standardize the program trailwide via active participation in other areas. This travel is another opportunity to get to know VSIs and PCTA staff personally.
- Actively **study** the teaching materials and practice presenting the material at home. Materials include saw education PowerPoint presentation(s) and handouts.
- Frequently seek out guidance from Mentor with questions to enhance progress toward being an effective instructor. A **monthly check-in** along these lines is essential, even if "all is well."
- **Solicit constructive criticism** from Mentor and other VSIs at each training and certification event. Work with Mentor to review what went well and identify areas for improvement. Critiques are opportunities for VSI-Ts to consider instruction techniques that suit their individual teaching style.
- **Understand** that different VSIs have different perspectives as to what went well and what could be improved. VSIs are expected to provide honest feedback in a positive, constructive spirit, to improve the skill set of the VSI-T.
- Attend PCTA's regular Saw Program **meetings and phone calls**. A VSI-T is always welcome, but not necessarily expected, to actively speak up at these forums. A minimum of active listening and learning is the intent.
- Participate in PCTA or other **opportunities** to increase your teaching and saw skills. Also, lead as many actual PCT **log out projects** as practical, in coordination with the PCTA Regional Representative and local volunteers. Incorporate personal lessons learned as part of individual instruction "kit," and the narrative used when instructing. Use Mentor and PCTA staff to find

opportunities outside of PCTA activities.