

How Artifacts Reveal Culture in Ski Patrol

Pads: This artifact reveals how the number one goal of ski patrol is to keep people safe. These pads are designed to protect people from the really hard poles that they would hit if they got out of control. The ski patrol has to maintain these pads anytime they get snow or there is an excess amount of melting snow coming down the poles. This artifact shows that the ski patrol are a subculture because they are concerned about the well-being of others and the safety of those people. Also, it shows that the ski patrol are at monarch a lot and ski a lot, because they have to ski to all these pads in order to service them. This is different from other people, since most people don't go skiing that often and especially not every day.

Radios: This artifact of the ski patrol reveals the unity of the ski patrol. All the ski patrol on duty have to have a radio on them at all times, this way if there is a need for their assistance in something they can help right away. I saw this being used as I observed them, over the last month. All the ski patrols know where they're supposed to be at the start of the day, and they all know their assignment, and if there is an emergency the base calls them up on the radio and directs them where to go. This reveals how orderly they all are and how they work as one unit instead of many little units, like so many other groups in the world today.

Sleds: Sleds are pretty much what the ski patrol is iconic for. If you say ski patrol I would think of a skier riding down with a sled behind him with a person in it. The ski patrol's main reason for being on the mountain is to get injured skiers off the mountain safely. These sleds/toboggans make it easy for them to do their job, they just have to load the person on the sled and transport them down the mountain. One thing that one of the ski patrols told me is that ski patrol is a big taxi service. This is because all they do is transport a person down the hill; they can't administer any medicine or anything like that until they get them down to the person at the base shack. So because of this the sled is a very important artifact for the ski patrol.