

Snake River BASE Academy

Higher Education for Lower Freefall

Preparing for the Fundamentals of BASE Course

To prepare for the Snake River BASE Academy's Fundamentals of BASE course, we recommend doing the following:

- Perform all of the canopy drills in the canopy drill set. Do each drill as many times as necessary to feel totally comfortable with the skill.
- Be able to pack a skydiving rig with no supervision.
- Practice crosswind and downwind landings. Be certain to notify other jumpers of your intentions, and land at a different time, or in different area, from jumpers making standard landings. Make landings both cross and downwind until you are totally comfortable landing in these directions.
- Practice landing accuracy so that you are comfortable landing in a designated area not larger than a 30-foot diameter circle on every attempt. Practice making stand up landings on these accuracy jumps, trying to both make the intended target and to land softly.
- Make some introductory CRW jumps with an experienced CRW jumper. Become comfortable maneuvering your canopy in close proximity to other canopies (to simulate maneuvers in close proximity to obstacles, which are common in BASE).
- Watch the packing video to familiarize yourself with the pack job we will use in the course. It is highly recommended that you practice packing as well. The more familiar you can be with the equipment and pack job prior to the course, the more smoothly and easily the course will flow, and the more material that can be covered during course time. All of the tools required for the pack job are included.
- Review this reader, which includes a short syllabus of the course. The reader is broken into sections, some corresponding to various lecture topics in the course, with additional sections for reference articles and additional materials. It is strongly recommended that you read the entire reader prior to the course.
- Practice tracking for maximum glide (not just slowest fall rate). While this skill is not necessary in a First Jump Course, it is essential to many BASE jumps, and will be critical from a fairly early point in your BASE career.
- Reading *The Great Book of BASE* is highly recommended as general preparation for BASE (not specifically for the course). While any BASE jumper will find particulars in the book that he disagrees with, it is by far the most comprehensive BASE reference assembled to date.
- Be familiar with the construction of ram air canopies, including the terminology describing the line and riser groups. Know the difference between A, B, C and D lines and also between front risers, rear risers, and toggles.

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We strongly recommend practicing canopy skills on a BASE specific canopy. Rental gear is available to practice these skills, and some rental fees can be credited toward new gear purchase. Snake River BASE is a dealer for every major manufacturer.

As a new jumper, it is usually best to purchase gear *after* a BASE training course, so that you can familiarize yourself with the options available on the market during your course. You can then order gear when the course concludes, and then return to Twin Falls when your new gear is ready to take the Object Avoidance course, customizing it and learning it's features in a safer environment. Rental gear is available to students who follow this path, so that they do not lose currency while waiting for their gear to be built.

In some cases, students may wish to purchase gear before attending the Fundamentals of BASE course. Students who should consider purchasing gear before a course are those who: 1) intend to jump solid, slider down objects early in their BASE career, and; 2) will be unable to return to Twin Falls in the foreseeable future for Object Avoidance training. In this case, a student may want to enroll in the Fundamentals of BASE and Object Avoidance courses back to back. Students should own their own gear to enroll in the Object Avoidance Course (because customizing the Deep Brake Setting to the jumper's body weight is part of the course).

We have Fundamentals of BASE and Safety Skills courses scheduled most months. The schedule changes as students enroll, so it's best to contact us for the current schedule.

We can add courses on most dates; so if you are looking for a course on any specific dates, don't hesitate to contact us to arrange that. We try to confirm dates for each course about two months in advance, to give some flexibility for people whose plans are changing.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a course, please don't hesitate to contact Tom Aiello at +1.208.420.2602 or Tom@SnakeRiverBASE.com.

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