

| Program | Audience | Recommended outcomes | Recommended content | Recommended prerequisites | Recommended format | Recommended performance measures | Recommended Instructor qualifications Student:inst. ratio |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Avalanche Awareness | Interested public | Awareness of avalanche hazards | General information about avalanche hazard, how to avoid it, and proper equipment for traveling in avalanche terrain. | None | 1 – 2 hr | None | Knowledgeable and entertaining |
| Introduction to Avalanches | Any winter backcountry user May be adapted for groups like Public Safety, Search & rescue, Snowmobilers, etc. | 1) Recognize & avoid obvious avalanche hazard. 2) Understand and apply current avalanche advisory | A brief introduction to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avalanche statistics and human factors • Avalanche terminology • Avalanche terrain • Snowpack and weather factors • Obvious clues and red flags • Avalanche bulletins • Simple decision tools (ALP TRUTH, FACETS, RYG Light, clear communication, etc.) • Travel protocols • Companion recovery | None | 2-3 hr presentation | None | Member Affiliate AAA or higher |
| Introduction to Avalanches Field Course | Any winter backcountry user May be adapted for groups like Public Safety, Search & rescue, Snowmobilers, etc. | 1) Recognize avalanche terrain and understand safe motorized travel protocols. 2) Understand how layered snow contributes to avalanching 3) Understand basic companion rescue | Field examples & hands-on training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avalanche terrain, avalanche run out zones and terrain traps • Basic route selection • Motorized travel protocols (one at a time, hand signals, manner in which you park, don't help stuck partner on slope) • Snowpack layering • Basic stability tests (performing safe slope cuts to identify instabilities, small column tests) • Current snowpack conditions and weather effects (bulletin) • Companion recovery including probing, shoveling, beacon use | None | 7 hrs field | Attendance & participation | Primary Instructor: Member Affiliate AAA or higher. Exemplary riding skills and enthusiastic about riding. Assistants: Sufficient personal experience Maximum 7:1 |
| Companion Rescue Clinic | Any winter backcountry user | 1) Wear & operate an avalanche beacon. 2) Perform a mock companion recovery including single and multiple burial search 3) Understand challenges involving multiple rescuer and learn basic group management | Hands-on training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of beacon skills (burial time-survival statistics) • Beacon operation and search principles • Demonstration and practice of signal, coarse, fine, and pinpoint search • Rescue practice scenarios including group management, probing & shoveling • Overview of first aid and emergency skills needed in actual rescues | None | 4 hrs field | Attendance & participation | Sufficient personal experience. *[Format and teaching tips available] Maximum 8:1 |

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| Level 1: Avalanche Fundamentals | Current and aspiring back-country travel companions | 1) Apply the current avalanche bulletin in tour planning and travel. 2) Recognize avalanche terrain and understand safe motorized travel protocols. 3) Interpret snow conditions and weather on different aspects and elevations in relation to slope stability 4) Apply simple decision tools in avalanche terrain. 5) Conduct a mock companion recovery and understand basic group management. | <p>Avalanche types and anatomy</p> <p>Basic slab mechanics</p> <p>Terrain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrain evaluation and route selection • Travel protocols & group communication -ie. one at a time, don't help stuck partner on slope, manner in which one parks, preloading communication, hand signals, etc.. • High marking guidelines <p>Snowpack and Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain snowpack development leading to instability or stability • Field observations, tests and judging instability • Perform safe slope cuts to identify instability • Use of avalanche & snow pit tools: inclinometer, compass, probe, saw • Introduce elementary pits with hand hardness profiles, basic grain type symbols and stability tests. Expose to recording field notes. • Avalanche & snow climates <p>Decision-support Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human factors and the need for systematic decision tools • Application & limitations of decision tools • Avalanche bulletins <p>Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companion rescue including scene size up, organization, beacon use, probing, shoveling • Recovery of victims not wearing beacons • Common mistakes in avalanche rescue • Single and multiple beacon search techniques • Role of first aid and emergency response in real avalanche rescues | No formal prerequisites Strongly Recommended: 1) Winter Travel and First Aid Skills 2) Introduction to Avalanches programs 3) Course provider's recommended reading | 24 hours Minimum 60% field | Attendance & participation | Primary or lead instructor: AAA Pro Member with exemplary riding skills and enthusiastic about riding. Assistants: AAA Member Affiliates Continuing education within previous 4 years Instructors must be excellent role models for the skills they teach. Preferred 5:1 Maximum 7:1 |

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