## Recommendations for U.S. Snowmobile Avalanche Education

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Recommended outcomes</th>
<th>Recommended content</th>
<th>Recommended pre-requisites</th>
<th>Recommended format</th>
<th>Recommended performance measures</th>
<th>Recommended Instructor qualifications</th>
<th>Student:Instructor ratio</th>
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<tr>
<td>Avalanche Awareness</td>
<td>Interested public</td>
<td>Awareness of avalanche hazards</td>
<td>General information about avalanche hazard, how to avoid it, and proper equipment for traveling in avalanche terrain.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 – 2 hr</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Knowledgeable and entertaining</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Avalanches</td>
<td>Any winter backcountry user</td>
<td>1) Recognize &amp; avoid obvious avalanche hazard. 2) Understand and apply current avalanche advisory</td>
<td>A brief introduction to:  • 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</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>2-3 hr presentation</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Member Affiliate AAA or higher</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Avalanches Field Course</td>
<td>Any winter backcountry user</td>
<td>1) Recognize avalanche terrain and understand safe motorized travel protocols. 2) Understand how layered snow contributes to avalanching 3) Understand basic companion rescue</td>
<td>Field examples &amp; hands-on training:  • 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</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>7 hrs field</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>Primary Instructor: Member Affiliate AAA or higher. Exemplary riding skills and enthusiastic about riding. Assistants: Sufficient personal experience</td>
<td>Maximum 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion Rescue Clinic</td>
<td>Any winter backcountry user</td>
<td>1) Wear &amp; 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</td>
<td>Hands-on training:  • 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 &amp; shoveling  • Overview of first aid and emergency skills needed in actual rescues</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4 hrs field</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>Sufficient personal experience. *[Format and teaching tips available]</td>
<td>Maximum 8:1</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### American Avalanche Association

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<th>AAA Guidelines Purpose and Disclaimer of Liability</th>
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| Level 1: Avalanche Fundamentals | Current and aspiring backcountry 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. | Avalanche types and anatomy  
Basic slab mechanics  
**Terrain**  
- Terrain evaluation and route selection  
- Travel protocols & group communication  
- High marking guidelines | No formal pre-requisites | 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 | 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 |

### AAA Guidelines Purpose and Disclaimer of Liability:
The purpose of the AAA Guidelines for U.S. Avalanche Education (“Guidelines”) is to provide a general benchmark for skill progressions between different levels of avalanche education, for the public’s benefit. AAA believes that avalanche education can be more thoughtfully, consistently, and responsibly conducted and can achieve more constructive outcomes for students when course providers and avalanche instructors in the United States strive to embrace common guidelines and practices. In developing and issuing these Guidelines, AAA does not intend to act as - or become - a regulatory body for the avalanche industry. Compliance with the AAA Guidelines does not guarantee that a course provider’s courses or programs will be safe, or that participation in that course or program will be free from harm. In choosing to voluntarily engage in avalanche courses or programs or recreate in outdoor, backcountry and/or wilderness settings, individuals must understand that they accept and assume the inherent risks of these activities. AAA does not oversee, control or warrant the character or quality of any individual or entity’s avalanche programs, including those of any listed course providers, and is not responsible for the content of their specific courses or programs. Those interested in taking avalanche courses from course providers listed on AAA’s website or otherwise, should independently investigate and assess these course providers and their specific courses and programs. The American Association for Avalanche Professionals, Inc., dba the American Avalanche Association, and its officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers and representatives, including those individuals who assist in managing our websites at americanavalancheassociation.org and avalanche.org (collectively “AAA”), disclaim all duty, responsibility or liability (including for negligence) to any individuals or entities for any injury, death or other loss resulting from any cause, including losses caused, or claimed to be caused, in whole or in part, because an individual or entity, including a listed course provider, adhered to – or failed to comply with - any aspect of the AAA Guidelines.