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| Level 2 Avalanche Training | *Advancing winter backcountry travelers with prior avalanche training and experience* | -Link season weather history and relevant snowpack processes to current snowpack structure and layering.  
-Use local avalanche advisory as well as other resources available - remote weather stations, reports, and forecasts.  
-Create an avalanche hazard assessment without a local advisory.  
-Prioritize relevancy of observations and snowpack tests based on avalanche hazard and problem(s) and apply at a local scale. Key record keeping.  
-Gain deeper understanding of avalanche formation, triggering, and release mechanisms, including links to Avalanche Problems.  
-Recognize and manage risk: human factors, motivations, objectives, and limitations - through planning and communication.  
-Apply tools for planning, decision-making, and travel with consideration of group risk management and awareness of safe margins.  
-Practice travel protocols and techniques to mitigate risk exposure in a variety of avalanche terrain situations and challenges. | **Pre-Course**  
- Review Avalanche Fundamentals  
- Consider additional, targeted pre-course material for students to facilitate foundational topics  

**Concepts in Avalanche Hazard**  
- Identify/review Avalanche Problems (conditions, formation, characteristics)  
- Avalanche Character + Location(s) and distribution of the Avalanche Problems, sensitivity to triggering  
- Integrate likelihood, exposure, consequence, and trend concepts  

**Understanding Avalanche Release**  
- Understanding avalanche release – initiation, fracture, propagation  
- Snowpack characteristics, and Triggering.  

**Snowpack & Weather**  
- Relate seasonal snowpack layering to weather events/history  
- Storms (layers) and non-storm intervals (surfaces, weak layer formation), leading  
- Avalanche events -linking snowpack structure to Avalanche Problems  
- Layer formation processes- fragments, rounds, facets, surface conditions  
- Influences of wind, temperature, snowpack depth on layer formation  
- Relevance of settlement, creep, and glide; links to snowpack stability  

**Terrain**  
- Scale of terrain - region, range, basin, slope, features avalanche paths and specific terrain features  
- Link terrain aspect and elevation to avalanche problems & character  
- Identify snow cover over terrain. Snow cover distribution weak/shallow; strong/deep. Track Stability & snow quality.  
- Use of terrain rose to illustrate and track Avalanche Character, and safe terrain with snow quality.  
- Estimate avalanche size(s) given terrain scale and avalanche character  

**Applied Information Gathering & Planning**  
- Review a current avalanche advisory for reference when available  
- In lieu of (or in addition to) public avalanche forecast, identify local and internet resources for snow, weather, and avalanche information  
- Utilize Field Book- for documenting critical Information  
- Relate weather station data to snowpack history and current snowpack observed  
- Identify key information and questions to consider in estimating avalanche hazard and problems  
- Incorporate recent observations and reports to assess present conditions  
- Identify and manage areas of uncertainty with targeted observations and appropriate terrain selection and boundaries  
- Review and practice basic trip planning outline presented in Avalanche Fundamentals (i.e. group objectives, leadership, decision points, contingencies, and emergency plans)  
- Use maps and map technology to identify simple, challenging, and complex terrain in local area. Anticipate terrain challenges given Avalanche Character.  
- Plan route, objectives, and terrain options for current snowpack and weather conditions  
- Consider communication and emergency response options for day and multi-day or remote trips  

**Communication, Teamwork & Decision-Making**  
- Human factors revisited, identify influences of individual and group factors  
- Communicate to identify objectives/goals (ensure full group buy-in), establish teamwork/roles, and manage group  
- Consider and communicate about group goals, abilities, motivations, and | -Level 1 Avalanche Training  
-Avalanche Rescue  
-Participants must be prepared and fit enough to travel during daylight hours on touring skis, splitboard, snowshoes, or snowmobile in backcountry terrain in winter conditions for three consecutive days. | 24 hours Minimum: 60% field time | Instructor Coaching and Feedback. | -All Instructors: AAA Professional Member  
-Lead Instructor: Minimum 4 seasons as an Advanced Recreational Avalanche Instructor | -Maximum 6:1 |

No Formal Testing or Evaluation.
- limitations throughout the day; impacts of these factors on route and terrain selection
  - Identify conditions in the field that may challenge communication and decisions
  - Designate and follow through with group check-ins, decision points, and timeframe for day

### Field Observations & Snowpack Evaluation
- Target observations & snowpack tests to fill knowledge gaps and address current/suspected Avalanche Character
- Identify and prioritize critical “red flag” observations of terrain, snowpack, and weather
- Pertinent weather observations and trends: sky-cover, wind, temperature, solar radiation, precipitation
- Additional snowpack observations: snow surface mapping, snowpack depth/distribution, settlement, note daily changes, link key weather and affect on snowpack.
- Recording observations- Key concepts: Weather & snowpack obs. Drafting snow profiles
- Make observations and informal tests while moving through terrain
- Dig snow pits in relevant (aspect, elevation, Avalanche Problem), appropriate locations
- Importance of craftsmanship and consistency for standardized observations
- Snow pit practices:
  - Identify layers (hand hardness, strong vs. weak, suspect grain types),
  - Perform snowpack tests appropriate to conditions (CT, ECT, PST, DTT)
  - Note shear quality and/or fracture character
- Interpretation of pit results and integration with other snowpack observations
- Limitation of snow pits and value of multiple tests/locations to recognize patterns

### Travel
- Recognize gaps in knowledge prior to field travel and prioritize observations needed
- Trailhead Check: teamwork & communication, beacons & safety equipment.
- Implement plan to field: route and trail; identify and use safer route alternatives when faced with changing or unanticipated conditions
- Practice group travel protocols appropriate to terrain (spacing, one at a time, safe zones)
- Group management techniques for safe and efficient uphill and downhill movement

### End of day review
- Observations of snowpack and instabilities, weather, terrain. Group teamwork, managing risk through the day;
- Review close calls/mistakes, decisions
- Reflections, learning