



## AIARE 2 - DECISION MAKING IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN

Winter 2023-24

### PRE-COURSE LEARNING (5-7HRS)

To get the most out of this course, please complete all pre-course learning before the course.

- Prior to the course look for an email from Sawtooth Mountain Guides with instructions on how to access pre-course learning.
- Download free [Avenza app](#) to phone
- Explore [Sawtooth Avalanche Center](#) website
  - Find local avalanche center on [Avalanche.org](#)
  - Read [Sawtooth Avalanche Center](#) forecast for the area you are meeting your team
- Review season conditions on [Sawtooth Avalanche Center Conditions Blog](#)
- Review and be familiar with AIARE Field Book
- Stanley Courses will meet at [Sawtooth Mountain Guides Office](#)
- Sun Valley & Boise Courses an email will be sent prior to your course with classroom space meeting location.

### COURSE AGENDA (26HRS)

#### Day 1: Identify sources of uncertainty related to the snowpack. (9hrs)

*1.5 hours morning Classroom session with SMG instructor.*

*6 hours field instruction with SMG Instructor.*

*1.5 hours self-paced evening learning.*

800-930 Classroom Session

- Introductions and Course Goals
- Answer questions and review online learning
- Review season conditions
- Review AIARE Field Book

0930-1000 Travel to trailhead ([Galena Summit](#), [Banner](#), [Park Cr/Stanley Cr](#), [Baker Creek](#))

1030-1600 Teams at TH Meet at assigned trailhead for full field day

- Hand out materials - AIARE Field Notebook
- Gear check: Review [equipment list](#) - Due to extended hours outside consider including lots of layers, extra gloves, hand/toe warmers, extra snacks, thermos/warm beverage

Field Session: Test snowpack profiles

- Snowpack and weather observation techniques
- Toolbox approach to investigating snowpack layers
- Snowpack tests
- Ride Safely

1600-1630 Back at TH Instructor-led Debrief  
Plan logistics for tomorrow - trailhead, specific equipment, etc.

Evening [Submit observations](#) to Sawtooth Avalanche Center  
Document snow profiles in field notebook  
Review resources and tour plan for Day 2

**Day 2: Identify sources of uncertainty related to terrain. (9hrs)**

*1.5 hours morning Classroom session with SMG instructor.*

*6 hours field instruction with SMG Instructor.*

*1.5 hours self-paced evening homework.*

0800-0930 Classroom Instructor-coached Plan

- Read [Sawtooth Avalanche Center](#)
- Trip Planning Resources on Sawtooth Avalanche Center website
- AIARE Field Book Trip Planning

0930-1000 Travel to trailhead ([Galena Summit](#), [Banner](#))

1030-1600 Teams at TH Field Session: Managing avalanche terrain

- Practice snowpack observation and tests
- Analyzing terrain and consequences
- Using terrain to manage risk: terrain margins
- RIDE SAFELY

1600-1630 Back at TH Instructor-coached Debrief  
Plan logistics for tomorrow - trailhead, specific equipment, etc.

Evening [Submit observations](#) to Sawtooth Avalanche Center

**Day 3: Participant led tour - Apply the AIARE Framework (8hrs)**

*2 hours morning Classroom session with SMG instructor.*

*5 hours student-led tour*

*1 hour post-course review*

0800-1000 Classroom Student-led Trip Plan

- Students use all tools and resources to identify uncertainty and PLAN a full-day tour.

1000-1030 Travel to trailhead ([Galena Summit](#), [Banner](#))

1030-1530 Field Field Session: Apply the AIARE framework during a backcountry tour

- Identify sources of uncertainty, especially related to the group
- Manage the team in avalanche terrain
- RIDE SAFELY

1530-1600

Cars

DEBRIEF  
Course Close

Post-Course

[Submit observations](#) to Sawtooth Avalanche Center  
Standby for follow up email from course leader with

- AIARE Course Completion Certificate
- Additional [links and resources](#)