



AIARE 1 - DECISION MAKING IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN

Winter 2025-2026

PRE-COURSE LEARNING (5-7HRS)

To get the most out of this course, please complete all pre-course learning before the course. There will be classroom sessions each morning of the course to review lessons that will be covered in the field that day and do daily field planning.

- Look for an email from Sawtooth Mountain Guides with instructions on how to access pre-course learning prior to course.
- Have a mapping app available on your smartphone. Be familiar with importing a GPX file. If you do not have a mapping app like Gaia, Fatmap, OnX already, a CalTopo discount code is provided in the pre course email.
- Please make sure to bring a PENCIL to class.
- 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: Avalanche Problems, Terrain and Rescue (9hrs)

1.5 hours Classroom sessions with SMG AIARE Instructor

6 hours field instruction and rescue practice with an instructor.

8:30 - 10:45 am Classroom Session

- Introduction and course goals
- Review AIARE Online Lessons & Answer Questions
- Review AIARE Avalanche Rescue Lessons
- Tour of the AIARE Field Book
- Mapping Review
- 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.
- Goals and meeting location for field session

10:45 - 11:30am Transition to Field: Exact location TBD.

- Some commonly used areas for Stanley & Sun Valley Courses include: [Galena Summit](#), [Banner](#),

[Park Cr/Stanley Cr, Baker Creek](#)

11:30am -16:00pm Meet at assigned trailhead for full field day

- Rescue practice

16:00-16:30pm Back at cars

- Tour of AIARE Field Notebook
- Debrief
- Plan logistics for tomorrow - trailhead, specific equipment, etc.

Evening

- Review [Sawtooth Avalanche Center Website](#)
- Review season conditions on [Sawtooth Avalanche Center Conditions Blog](#)
- Review AIARE Field Notebook and Resources

Day 2: PLAN, RIDE, DEBRIEF with observations tour and travel protocols (9hrs)

1.5 Classroom session with SMG AIARE Instructor

6 hours field instruction with instructor.

1.5 hours self-paced evening homework.

8:30-10:00am Instructor-Led Classroom Session

- Review and Questions from Day 1
- Goals and plan for Day 2
- Sawtooth Avalanche Center - How to Use the Forecast
- Read [Sawtooth Avalanche Center](#) forecast for area you are meeting your team today
- Fill out AIARE field notebook for the day – Instructor-Led.

10:00-10:45am Travel to trailhead ([Galena Summit](#), [Banner](#))

10:45am-16:00pm Teams at TH

- Instructor-Led Trip Plan
- Ride Safely checklist
- Observations tour
- Travel protocols

16:00-16:30pm Cars

- Debrief
- Discuss tour plan and run list for Day 3

Evening

- [Submit observations](#) to Sawtooth Avalanche Center
- Review AIARE field notebook
- Tour planning for Day 3

Day 3: Put it all together with student-led tour (8hrs)

2 hour Student-Led meeting with all team members and instructor- Classroom Session

5 hour student-led tour

1 hour post course review

8:30-10:00am Student-Led Trip Plan (Classroom)

- Review and Questions from Day 2
- Students use all tools and resources to PLAN a full day tour with instructor supervision.

10:00-11:00am Travel to trailhead ([Galena Summit](#), [Banner](#))

11:00am-15:30pm Field

- Meet team at trailhead for student-led tour - RIDE

15:30-16:00pm Cars

- DEBRIEF
- Course Close

Post-Course Review AIARE 1 Online Lessons

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

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