



AIARE 2 - DECISION MAKING IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN

Winter 2026

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.

830-930 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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

830-930	Classroom	Instructor-coached Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Sawtooth Avalanche Center • Trip Planning Resources on Sawtooth Avalanche Center website • AIARE Field Book Trip Planning
930-1000	Travel to trailhead	(Galena Summit , Banner)
1030-1600	Teams at TH	Field Session: Managing avalanche terrain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

830-1000	Classroom	Student-led Trip Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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](#)