



AIARE 2 - DECISION MAKING IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN

Winter 2026-27

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 and be familiar with AIARE Field Book
- Stanley Courses will meet at [Sawtooth Mountain Guides Office](#)

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	• 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

- 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

- 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

- 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](#)