

SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN GUIDES BACKCOUNTRY SKIER'S AVALANCHE COURSE

Sawtooth Valley

LEVEL 1

Day One:

Meet at SMG Headquarters, Lower Stanley, 8:00AM;
Introduction and Orientation/ Course Outcomes; Overview of Avalanche Hazard ; Weather/ Snowpack History; Use as the Avalanche Bulletin;
Intro to Decision-making & Avalanche Hazard; Observations / Use of the Field Notebook.

Field-- Beacon Use- Probing / Shoveling. PM.; Tour-- Observation of Snowpack characteristics, terrain, effect of slope aspect/ elevation. Dinner Break. Evening Presentations: Mountain Snowpack Development/ Snow Climates; Mechanics of Slab Avalanche.

Day Two:

A.M. Observation of Weather/ Daily Avalanche Bulletin. Case History: Avalanche Accident; Building a Hazard forecast and developing a Tour Plan for the Day; Use of maps and related resources;

Field: Terrain route selection & Backcountry Travel Skills: group skiing safety uphill/downhill; Methods of Stability Evaluation/ field observations; PM De-brief Tour observations/ Plotting Study Pit & Stability Rose; Observations, Hazard Rating Review; Dinner.

Evening: Terrain Management and Group management; Concepts in Avalanche Hazards and The Human Factor: Application of Decision-making Tools.

Day Three:

A.M. Weather Obs.Review of previous day's Field Obs. Group discussion of Hazard Forecast; Daily Avalanche Bulletin. Tour Planning w/group. Common Mistakes leading to Avalanche Accidents; Companion Rescue Clinic; Review of Avalanche Rescue Scenarios; Avalanche Rescue/ Response/Debrief. Review of Topics as needed. Course end: 4:00 P.M.



Professional Member
American Avalanche Assoc.



Certified
Ski Mountaineering Guide

