

Mt. Rainier: AIARE Avalanche Level 2 Course **Analyzing Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

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Are you ready to take your backcountry travel to the next level? Are you interest in the “why” behind avalanche problems? Let IMG’s team of avalanche professionals guide your experience with an American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Level 2. Our level 2 builds on the foundation of the AIARE Level 1 Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain. In this more advanced course we’ll discuss:

- Being a leader within your travel group
- Traveling without the support of an avalanche bulletin
- Traveling in complex avalanche terrain

Our emphasis will be on understanding and analyzing snow stability to determine safe routes of travel to our objectives in the mountains.

Course Content: AIARE Level 2 Course: Analyzing Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard, is a 3 day course covering a wide array of topics relevant to backcountry recreationist. Student learning outcomes include:

- Advance understanding of avalanche terrain, particularly from the perspective of stability analysis.
- Discuss how the snowpack develops and changes over time; and discuss the factors that contribute to spatial variability.
- Learn standard observation guidelines and recording formats for factors that influence or indicate snow stability. SWAG MODULE.
- Advance understanding of avalanche release and triggering mechanisms.
- Introduce a snow stability analysis and forecasting framework.
- Improve companion rescue skills including multiple and deep burials

Perfect Venue: We all know that learning about snow and avalanches needs to take place in the mountains. IMG wants to maximize our learning time in the field by including field segments each day of the course. With IMG’s headquarters located at the base of one of the most iconic mountains in the world, we’ll take advantage of our close proximity to Paradise Park on the South Side of Mt Rainier. Paradise is the highest year-round trailhead in the state, allowing our teams to access a variety of terrain and snowpacks to maximize learning. Day one and two will be a mixture of inside learning, group exercises, and field time, while days three and four will focus on solid tour planning, group management, and terrain evaluation spending nearly all day in the field.

Lodging and Transportation INCLUDED: Lodging at IMG’s headquarters will be provided for all students. We’ll travel together from IMG to our field locations each day in IMG’s vans. Meals are not provided, but a fully equipped kitchen is available for your use at IMG.

Lowest Student to Instructor Ratio: IMG has always focused on providing the best experience and learning environment for its students. Our avalanche courses will be taught at a 1:5 Instructor to Student ratio. Such a low ratio allows more instructor-student interaction, allows more opportunities for students to lead group environment, and allows a more tailored educational experience.

Dates: January (Please see the IMG website for [specific, available dates.](#))

Landcost: \$550

Student to Guide Ratio: 5 to 1

Trip Length: 3 days

Private Level 2 Courses available upon request: Have a group of friends or co-workers who want to take a Level 2 together? IMG is happy to work with you to develop a private Level 2 course. Contact our office for details.

Mt. Rainier: AIARE Level 2 Itinerary

Day 1: 8:00-5:30: Ashford, WA- Mt Rainier National Park

Meet at IMG Headquarters at 8 AM.

Classroom Session: Level 1 Review, Weather Basics, Gear Review, Avalanche Transceiver Overview

Field Topics: Small Team Rescue, Leadership in Avalanche Rescue, Multiple Burial Rescue

Day 2: 8:00-5:30: Ashford, WA- Mt Rainier National Park

Classroom Session: Snowpack Processes, Locating the Avalanche Problems in Terrain, Matching Observations to Field Objectives, Advanced Tour Planning

Field Session: Finding relevant observations in terrain, Understanding the Mountain Snowpack

Day 3: 8:00-5:30 Ashford, WA- Mt Rainier National Park

Classroom Session: Tour Planning

Field Session: Advanced Travel Techniques in Avalanche Terrain, Group Management, Gathering Information on the Move, Choosing Terrain

"I chose IMG over any other company to teach me the skills necessary to climb bigger and harder mountains. I was very happy with my choice from the moment I submitted my application... I was blown away with the professionalism and knowledge that every staff member held.

Every one of the guides took the time to share their knowledge, tips/tricks, share stories and made me feel like I belonged on Mt. Rainier with them. I can't thank them enough for that! Thanks again for a great Mt. Rainier climb, and I look forward to my next adventure with IMG!"

—Kevin T.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: www.mountainguides.com/comments.shtml

Mt. Rainier: AIARE Level 2 Required Personal Equipment List

This Personal Equipment List is for your guidance. Please consider each item carefully and be sure you understand its function; consult with us before you make any substitutions. Several of the more specialized items (i.e. crampons, ice axe) along with shell layers, insulating layers, hand and eyewear can be rented from us at the IMG base in Ashford. Please consult our [Rental Information](#).

Avalanche Rescue Gear:

- ☐ Avalanche Beacon*
- ☐ Collapsible Avalanche Shovel*
- ☐ Collapsible Avalanche Probe*

On-snow travel gear

- ☐ Snowshoes* with Winter Hiking Boots or
- ☐ Skis with Alpine Touring Bindings, AT Boots, and Skins or
- ☐ Skis with Telemark Bindings, Telemark Boots, and Skins or
- ☐ Splitboard, Snowboard Boots, and Skins

Clothing

- ☐ Warm Hat or Beanie
- ☐ Sun Hat
- ☐ Synthetic Base Layer Top and Bottoms
- ☐ Soft Shell Jacket*
- ☐ Hard Shell Jacket*
- ☐ Soft Shell Pants
- ☐ Hard Shell Pants*
- ☐ Light Gloves
- ☐ Warm Snow Gloves*
- ☐ Warm Socks

Additional Gear

- ☐ Goggles and/or Sunglasses*
- ☐ Two Trekking/Ski Poles with large baskets*
- ☐ 25-35L Backpack (avalanche tools pocket preferred)
- ☐ 2 Liters of Water (Two 1 L wide mouth water bottles recommended)
- ☐ Lunch and Snack Food
- ☐ Sunscreen (at least SPF 30)
- ☐ Lip Balm
- ☐ Headlamp

Snow Study Equipment

- ☐ Snow Saw
- ☐ Snow Study Kit (ruler, snow crystal card, 10x handlense or loup, snow thermometer)

Optional Gear

- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Map and Compass
- ☐ Ski Helmet

*Available for Rent, www.mountainguides.com/rainier-rentals.shtml