



Backcountry Education Level 2 Training Course Overview

Day 1: Meeting, gear check, transceiver practice. Verification of candidates off-piste skiing level and proficiency in companion rescue by doing a short ski tour. Overlook of planning checklist and review of important terms, avalanche bulletin, avalanche types.

- **Review basic snowpack configuration-** review field tests for finding weak layers in the snowpack. Review critical **Red Flags** and the avalanche problem they indicate.
- **Companion Rescue-** Practice in both individual (2 beacons in 8 minutes) and group scenarios (the importance of participating and organising an efficient group rescue).
- **Introduction to emergency rope work-** Construction of a lightweight harness, uses of the rope to secure exposed or difficult sections of a descent.
- **Homework:** Case study, Plan a tour and plan B using trip planning checklist, avalanche bulletin, weather forecast, group level.

-6 hours

Day 2: Discuss the Case study, students lead the tour they've planned using snowpack evaluation tests, trip planning checklist. Practice navigation using apps, maps.

- **Practice snowpack evaluation-** identification of weak layers and weighing field observations against the bulletin and the day's objective.
- **Case Study-** Discussion of general trends in backcountry accidents, how to identify clues early to avoid drama.



- **Transceiver Practice-** Attack weak areas from the previous day's practice, ensure competency with the transceiver.
- **Emergency Rope work-** review and practice harnesses, construct solid snow anchors, test different roping techniques.
- **Evaluation and debrief-** Examining and critiquing the tour. What went well? What could be done differently? Timing respected?
- **Homework:** Case study, Plan a tour for the following day, plus a plan B using the trip planning checklist.

-6 hours

Day 3: Students lead the planned tour, gaining in leadership and autonomy. Efficient navigation. Discuss the case study.

- **Perfection-** Companion rescue of multiple buried transceivers in both individual and group scenarios.
 - Snowpack evaluation via quick field tests- when, where, why, and how often
- **Review-** Ropework for skiing, detailed snowpack evaluation in pits, looking at Isolated and Extended Column tests as indications.
- **Debrief-** Both a review of the day's tour + an overall review of the course material with individual critiques/ learning points to practice for the **Level 2 Evaluation**

-6 hours