

Avalanche Skills Refresher

Course Information

Please contact us weekdays 8am-5pm at (719) 630-3934 or anytime at info@pikespeakalpineschool.com with any questions regarding the Avalanche Skills Refresher clinic or other skiing-related topics.

This is a one evening and one full field day course designed to refresh knowledge learned in the past and provide new information. This course is great preparation for the Level Two course, especially if it has been three or more years since you took Level One.

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of AIARE Level One course.

Our four primary goals for this course are:

- 1.) Review the key components of avalanches, the mountain snowpack, and winter weather, and how each contributes to the avalanche phenomenon
- 2.) Discuss avalanche danger as it pertains to backcountry travelers and practice safe travel techniques in the mountains
- 3.) Teach new and updated research and field techniques new since your last course, including the most cutting-edge theory as developed by North America's foremost avalanche practitioners
- 4.) Ensure that your personal goals upon entering the course are met and lingering questions answered

Schedule:

Day One Evening session 5:00-8:00pm in Room 213 Worner Center, Colorado College.

- Day one is spend in the classroom, reviewing all things avalanche that were learned in the Level One course, while providing new information and more advanced skills to be used during this course and in the future.
- Through the use of PowerPoint presentations, hands-on collaborative exercises, and class-wide discussions we will learn about avalanche danger, safe travel techniques, and complex decision-making with a group in avalanche terrain.
- Starting on day one and continuing through the end of the course a strong emphasis is placed on meeting goals and answering questions that you have.

Day Two Field session 8:00am-5:00pm on Pikes Peak.

- Day two is spent ski touring on Pikes Peak, getting hands-on experience in the field.
- Our focus today is improving upon existing ski touring and movement skills while expanding our existing knowledge of travel and decision-making in avalanche terrain.
- We will spend time digging in the snowpack, examining different snow layers, and interpreting that data and how it relates to us as winter backcountry travelers.
- We will practice transceiver use and introduce new techniques for companion rescue.

Recommended reading:

To get the most information out of this course, we recommend reading the following texts prior to the start of this course:

Snowsense, by Jill Fredson and Doug Fesler.

The Avalanche Handbook 3rd ed., by David McClung; chapters 2, 3, and 5.

Please see attached gear list for this course.