AIARE Level I Avalanche Course: Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain

Learning Outcomes:
- Develop a plan for travel in avalanche terrain
- Demonstrate the ability to identify avalanche terrain
- Effectively use the decision-making framework to make terrain choices in a group setting
- Demonstrate effective companion rescue and beacon mechanics

Course Itinerary (Subject to Change)

Day 1: Meet at the JHMG Office
8:00 Registration, Introductions, Course Objectives and Goals
8:30 Introduction to Decision Making Framework and Skills Checklist
9:00 Case Study - Discussion
9:30 Avalanche Types and Characteristics
10:15 Formation of Layers in the Mountain Snowpack
11:00 Identifying and Evaluating Avalanche Terrain
11:45 Introduction to the Avalanche Bulletin (www.jhavalanche.org)
12:30 Intro to Companion Rescue
1:00 Lunch Break
2:00 Meet at the scheduled field venue for Companion Rescue and Beacon Mechanics and Tests
5:00 Finish (Homework: Read over the Avalanche Bulletin; fill out the first 3 sections of the Trip Plan Page)

Day 2: Meet at the base of Teton Pass in Wilson, WY
8:00 Review Trip Plan and Avalanche Bulletin for the field session. Student Led Beacon Function Check with Introduction to Snow and Weather Observations
9:00 Short Field Tour with Field Observations and Introduction to simple snow tests
12:30 End Tour at Parking Area, Lunch Break and head back to JHMG office
2:00 Field Observations review
2:45 Teamwork and Decision Making in avalanche terrain
3:15 Planning and Traveling Wisely in avalanche terrain
3:45 Choosing Terrain Exercise
4:15 Time Plans, Map Reading and Tour Plan Exercise
4:45 Group planning exercise for Day 3 tour
5:00 Finish (Homework: Review Avalanche Bulletin, fill out the entire Trip Plan Page)

Day 3: Meet in Grand Teton National Park for a full day of backcountry touring
7:30 Review Daily Avalanche Bulletin, Tour Plan, Perform a Beacon Function Check and Range Check
8:00 Long Field Tour, Observations, Choose Terrain, Teamwork, Companion Rescue for Multiple Burials
3:30 Finish Field Tour and return to the JHMG office
4:15 Course Close “Where do we go from here?”
5:00 Finish (Course Evaluations and Debrief)