

Avalanche Fundamentals Non Motorized (skis, boards, lift-accessed if at Bridger Bowl or Maverick)

Avalanche Fundamentals is an introduction to avalanche basics. It covers the basics of weather observations, snowpack development, avalanche terrain identification, travel techniques and companion rescue. An online lecture series & pre course meeting accompanies this field course.

A 6 hour on-snow field day will give students a chance to practice theories learned in lectures, and get hands on with our experienced team of instructors.

What you will learn:

- Relevant components of mountain weather
- Application of local Avalanche Forecast
- Identify avalanche terrain
- Snowpack Observations
- Travel techniques in the backcountry
- Companion rescue techniques

Ability Requirements

- Participants must have the preparedness to be outside for the entire day and take care of themselves in winter conditions with adequate layers, hydration and fueling.
- Basic ski or snowboard skills are required and participants must be able to negotiate intermediate (blue square) terrain. Short off piste travel is required
 - Touring skis/splitboard with skins are highly recommended, but boot packing with alpine skis or snowboard is acceptable. Basic knowledge of your gear is required, but we will review uphill travel with skins if it's a new skill. All gear must have retention devices or brakes to ride the lifts at Bridger Bowl
 - If you do not have touring gear, plan to carry your skis/ board on your backpack for the uphill component of the field day.
- Ability to carry a backpack up to 25 pounds, bend up and down repeatedly, twist, and shovel snow

Equipment Requirements

- Modern, 3 antenna beacon with fresh batteries
- Avalanche Shovel (These are metal and specific to digging/chopping in firm, icy snow, extendable handles are strongly encouraged)
- Avalanche Probe (At least 240cm or more)
- Skis, Snowboard, Touring Skis or Splitboard (with retention devices for riding lifts) with climbing skins
- Helmets are strongly encouraged
- Small backpack with required gear, layers, food and water

Bozeman Based non motorized field days are held at Bridger Bowl Ski area, from 9:00am-3:00pm. Pre-registration is required. We hold field days in other locations too, so check our education calendar if you live outside of Bozeman!