



## Avalanche Training: Student Equipment List

Equipment required for all avalanche courses

### Personal Equipment:

- \* Clothing for physical activity and standing in cold, snowy weather (avoid cotton)
- \* long underwear
- \* insulating layers
- \* outer layers (wind/waterproof)
- \* warm gloves, mitts, and hat
- \* Goggles and sunglasses
- \* Small personal first aid kit (sunscreen/lip-balm, moleskin, band-aids, medication, etc.)
- \* Water Bottle
- \* Pack

### Skiing Equipment:

- \* Boots (touring boots recommended)
- \* Skis with touring bindings and skins (please adjust bindings to boots and skins to skis before the course). Randonnee or free-heel gear is okay.
- \* Poles

OR

### Snowboarding Equipment:

- \* Split Board with touring bindings and skins (please adjust bindings to boots and skins to board before the course) For students arriving at the course with snowboarding equipment, split boards are recommended, as compared to traveling with snowshoes.
- \* Boots
- \* Collapsible poles

OR

- Snowboard (with means of attachment to pack—please have a system worked out before you come on the course).
  - Boots
  - Snowshoes
  - Collapsible poles

OR

### Snowshoes:

- \* Snowshoes (adjusted to boots, please test thoroughly before the course) Snowshoes are not recommended for courses where deep new snow conditions or steep terrain will likely be experienced. Please contact the course provider.

Rescue Equipment:

- \* Avalanche probe
- \* Collapsible shovel
- \* Avalanche transceiver (digital 457 kHz frequency)

Other Equipment:

(optional for Level 1 courses)

\* Weather, Snowpack, and Avalanche Observation and Recording Equipment – required for Level 2 and Level 3; optional for Level 1

For Level 2 and Level 3 Courses bring:

(optional for Level 1 courses)

- \* Snow saw or folding pruning saw (approx. 40cm blade).
- \* Snow thermometer (graduated in degrees Celsius). Dial stem and/or glass/alcohol types are commonly used. Digital thermometers are acceptable.
- \* Crystal identification screen. Dark color, metal screen is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**.
- \* Magnifier (8x or 10x **RECOMMENDED**).
- \* Folding rule (graduated in centimetres required. 2 metre length).
- \* Compass (Optional, compass with clinometer or bring separate clinometer)
- \* Altimeter (Optional)
- \* Field notebook (AIARE Field Notebook provided)
- \* Pencil and spare
- \* Pocket Knife

Note: Pre-packaged snow observation kits sold in backcountry ski shops in the U.S. often have thermometers in °F, rulers in inches, white crystal cards that are difficult to see clear snow grains and magnifiers that are narrow, underpowered and difficult to see multiple grains or to identify grain size and type. Please take the extra effort to purchase standard magnifiers (available in photo shops or linen shops), darker metal crystal cards and 2m rulers. Available on the AIARE website or Snowmetrics or Wasatch Touring.

Alaska Avalanche Information Center PO Box 911 Valdez, AK 99686  
info@alaskasnow.org 907.255.2242