



Level 1 and 2 equipment list

The gear on this list is **required**. This equipment is not only designed to keep you comfortable in the backcountry, but it can also save your life. Mountain Chalet, REI, Mountain Equipment Recyclers and Blindside are a great resource for knowledge and product selection.

719-368-9524 info@pikespeakalpineschool.com

Snow/ski gear:

- ☐ Alpine Touring (AT) skis, Tele-skis, Splitboard. **Make all binding adjustments for fit prior to day 1.**
- ☐ Climbing Skins for skis and splitboards. **Ensure that the skins are fitted to your skis or splitboard prior to day 1.**
- ☐ Snowshoes, if not skiing. **Make sure bindings fit your boot prior to day 1.**
- ☐ Ski Poles (collapsible), required for all backcountry travelers on this course.

Safety gear:

- ☐ Avalanche Transceiver. Digital beacon transmitting on 457 kHz (supplied by PPAS for this course).
- ☐ Probe. Collapsible probe made of aluminum or carbon fiber (supplied by PPAS for this course).
- ☐ Shovel. Aluminum shovel (not plastic) designed for backcountry use (supplied by PPAS for this course).
- ☐ Avalung and/or Airbag (optional).
- ☐ Ski Helmet, for ski descents (optional, but recommended, be sure you can fit in, or carry on backpack).
- ☐ Notebook and Pencil for making field notes and observations. I also carry map, altimeter, compass and slope meter.
- ☐ Spare door and ignition key, for groups carpooling. It's a real bummer to lose a key on a tour.

Footwear:

- ☐ Ski Boots, Snowboard Boots or Tele Boots.
- ☐ Gaiters (optional but nice to have when we step out of skis or snowshoes).
- ☐ Wool or synthetic socks. No cotton.
- ☐ Liner sock. This is a personal preference, not required.
- ☐ Winter Hiking Boot. This is something you can wear in the classroom or in the parking lot for rescue drills.

Clothing (all to be wool or synthetic, **no cotton**):

- ☐ Base Layer, long underwear, top and bottoms.
- ☐ Insulation Layer, Softshell Pants and Jacket. Fleece is ok if you have hardshell outerlayer.
- ☐ Hardshell **Pants** (full side zip) and **Jacket** with hood. This is a wind and waterproof layer (Gore-tex) or similar.
- ☐ Insulated "puffy" Jacket w/ hood. Down or Synthetic. This layer is meant to be worn on outside of all other layers combined.

Headwear:

- ☐ Synthetic or wool hat (beanie).
- ☐ Buff or neck gaiter. I highly recommend buffs for their versatility.
- ☐ Sunglasses with dark lens and wraparound sun and wind protection.
- ☐ Goggles.

Handwear:

- ☐ Liner glove.
- ☐ Softshell glove, water and wind resistant.
- ☐ Mittens, good to have in your pack for colder temps.
- ☐ Two pairs or warm gloves/mittens minimum. I bring three.

Other gear:

- ☐ ~35L Backpack, make sure your gear fits in pack prior to course day.
- ☐ First-aid kit (**small**), blister bandages, band-aid and personal medications.
- ☐ 1L waterbottle (2L max), leakproof bottle like Nalgene works best. I bring a 24oz Thermos with warm drinks for the cold days.
- ☐ Sunscreen and lipscreen, 30SPF minimum.
- ☐ Ski strap(s), small knife/multitool, headlamp w/new batteries, lighter, a few zip ties, & a short sections of bailing wire for field repairs.
- ☐ Camera, camera phone.
- ☐ Snacks, about 1000 calories for the day. Sandwich, candy bars, and trailmix work well, bring what tastes good to you.

For AIARE 2 and AIARE 3 Courses bring: (optional for AIARE 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. Electronic thermometers are acceptable but have limitations for snow profile work. **NOTE:** If you bring thermometers calibrated in degrees Fahrenheit, you will be required to purchase or borrow a Celsius thermometer.
- Crystal identification screen. Dark color, metal screen is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**.
- Magnifier (8x or 10x **RECOMMENDED**).
- Folding rule (graduated in centimeters required. 2 meter length).
- Compass (Optional, compass with clinometer or bring separate clinometer **RECOMMENDED**)
- Altimeter (Optional)
- AIARE Fieldbook
- Pencil and spare
- Pocket Knife

Note: Pre-packaged snow observation kits sold in backcountry ski shops often have thermometers in °F, rulers in inches, white crystal cards that are difficult to see clear snow grains and magnifiers that are narrow, overpowered 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.

Weather, Snowpack, and Avalanche Observation and Recording Equipment

- Snow saw (approx. 40cm blade).
- Snow thermometer (graduated in degrees Celsius). Dial stem and/or glass/alcohol types are commonly used. Digital thermometers are acceptable but have limitations for snow profile work.

If you bring thermometers calibrated in degrees Fahrenheit, you will be at a significant disadvantage on the course.

Mountain Chalet:

All your backcountry clothing and equipment needs. Those enrolled in a PPAS trip/course receive 10% discount. Just mention PPAS, your name and the trip/course you are enrolled in. 226 N Tejon St, Colorado Springs (719) 633-0732

www.mtnchalet.com

Mountain Equipment Recycler:

Used backcountry clothing and equipment. 1024 S Tejon St, Colorado Springs (719) 210-6427

www.merecyclers.com

Blindside:

Splitboards sales and rentals. 600 S 21st St #150, Colorado Springs (719) 636-1554

www.blindsidecolorado.net

REI:

All your backcountry clothing and equipment needs. 1376 E Woodmen Rd. Colorado Springs (719) 260-1455

www.rei.com

Brooks-Range Mountaineering:

Portable rescue sleds, guide cards, field organizers, snow study kits, snow saws and more...

www.brooks-range.com

Backcountry Access:

Beacons, shovels, probes, ABS packs, snow study kits and more...

www.backcountryaccess.com

Ortovox USA: Beacon, shovels, packs, probes and more...

www.ortovoxusa.com