

AIR FORCE



OUTDOOR RECREATION

# AVALANCHE SAFETY

## AIARE COURSES & AVALANCHE EDUCATION



United States Air Force Academy  
Outdoor Recreation Center | Bldg 5136

**719-333-4753/4356**



**SCAN HERE**

for prices, ski shop services,  
winter rental equipment,  
ODR activities and more.





— OFFICIAL PROVIDER —  
**AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR AVALANCHE  
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COURSES**

**U**SFAA Outdoor Adventure Programs is the only accredited provider of AIARE Courses in the Air Force, and only the second provider DoD wide outside of the Mountain Warfare School in Vermont. We are proud to have in-house instructors and course leaders who have decades of experience in the avalanche industry as guides, ski patrollers and educators. All of our courses include state-of-the-art backcountry equipment and avalanche safety gear, transportation to and from our field locations, and all online or tangible materials needed for your course at no extra charge. As the leading adventure programming office in the DoD, we are excited to be able to offer you these courses at discounted rates, while maintaining the highest-level educational product.



## OUR BACKCOUNTRY GUIDES

**U**SFAFA is proud to have indisputably the most experienced and highest trained staff in all of military MWR. We don't contract our trips out to other outfitters, instead, we ensure our guides are consistently at the forefront of guide training and avalanche education in the industry, often exceeding the standard for the commercial industry. As a center for excellence, USAFA OAP only hires the highest quality staff and provides nationally and internationally accredited training for our guides and our guests. Guiding in and around avalanche terrain is a complex and difficult job. Each USAFA backcountry guide has completed, at a minimum, avalanche safety training to AAA Pro Level 1, an AMGA Ski Guide Course, has at least four seasons and 100 days of experience leading groups in avalanche terrain, is certified in Wilderness First Responder (WFR) or Wilderness First Aid (WFA), and has been through an extensive training and evaluation process to vet their guide quality. Our lead guides are certified AIARE Level 3/Pro 2 Avalanche Professionals, Professional Members of the AAA, AMGA/IFMGA Certified Mountain Guides or AMGA Certified Ski Guides and have on average 15 years of backcountry guiding experience guiding all over the world and across the US. Our guides are exceptional educators, are patient, and are excited to share their craft with you. They are lifelong backcountry users and professionals who are committed to delivering an incredible experience while prioritizing group safety. By ensuring our guides are thoroughly qualified, we can confidently say your trip will be of the highest quality!

**AIARE**  
Arch + Education





## ACCREDITATIONS AND TRAINING

The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Provider: (AIARE) is on the forefront of avalanche safety training and is the national standard for education in winter backcountry travel. As an AIARE provider, we offer four levels of avalanche safety training including our free evening Avalanche Awareness Class, 1 day Avalanche Rescue Course, and 3 day Recreational Level 1 and 2 safety courses. Accredited through the American Avalanche Association (AAA), these courses allow backcountry users to develop decision making in and around avalanche terrain, which is plentiful in Colorado. These skills are developed through mentorship, feedback, and hands on experience, and create educated backcountry users who use an informed approach to decision making in avalanche terrain. For more information, visit [avtraining.org](https://www.avtraining.org)



The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) is the only internationally recognized mountain guide training organization in the United States. As a member of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA), the AMGA offers the most robust training and highest standard of education in the industry, requiring candidates to have years of experience, course work, and examination to gain credentialing as a mountain professional. Our guides undergo training from the AMGA in many mountain disciplines, and our AMGA certified guides constantly offer in-house continuing education and mentorship. For more information on the extensive training our guides pursue, visit [amga.com](http://amga.com)

## AVALANCHE CLASS AND COURSE

### AIARE 1: Fundamentals of Avalanche Safety

**Dec 20-21 | Jan 10-11 | Feb 21-22 | Mar 28-29.** This course is designed for winter backcountry users. Level 1 courses teach students how to identify avalanche terrain and interpret the avalanche forecast, as well as develop tour plans and communicate with group members. This course is comprised of two evenings and two field days plus some self-paced online learning. Any user of the Colorado winter backcountry should have the knowledge taught in this course in order to have fun, stay safe, and help others if needed in the wintery wonderland we love to play in. Includes backcountry ski/splitboard set ups upon request, avalanche rescue gear, transportation to and from Monarch Pass, certified AIARE and AMGA instructors, and AIARE fieldbooks and online resources. Custom dates for private groups are also available by emailing [usafaoap@gmail.com](mailto:usafaoap@gmail.com). Each set of course dates has two-hour evening Zoom/Teams meetings the Tue and Thu prior to field dates.

**\$550/person**

### AIARE Rescue Course

**Dec 27 | Jan 17.** This single day training is geared specifically toward understanding and practicing with your avalanche rescue equipment. We will break down current best practices on conducting searches with an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe, for single and multiple burial scenarios. Additionally, we cover single and group rescue techniques, after care with rescue sled packaging and first aid considerations for avalanche patients. This training course is a must to provide you with the skills needed to respond to an avalanche emergency in the backcountry, and stack the odds in your partners' favor. Skiers, splitboarders, snowshoers and climbers are all encouraged to have this training and are invited to attend. Trip includes all equipment needed, transportation between USAFA and the field, online and physical learning materials, and your certified AIARE Instructor. Custom dates for private groups are also available by emailing [usafaoap@gmail.com](mailto:usafaoap@gmail.com). **\$200/person**





## AIARE 2 Avalanche Safety Course

**Call for dates and cost.** The next step in the avalanche educational progression, this course is designed for the backcountry user who has had at least one season of applying the skills learned in AIARE 1 and is ready to dive in to snow science and group decision making a little further. This course emphasizes more time and terrain in the field with a mentor, and is best suited for folks who are likely to be facilitating small groups of friends on hut trips or backcountry excursions. Students must have completed a AAA accredited level 1 course and a single day AIARE Rescue Course in order to sign up for the Level 2. This course is comprised of self-paced online learning, two evenings online instructional sessions and two full days of field work on Monarch Pass. Classes are taught by AIARE Instructors and an AMGA Certified Ski Guide.





## **Custom/Private Trips**

As always, we are happy to offer custom trips to better fit your schedule and goals. From intro level skills to advanced ski mountaineering techniques, we can build your dream trip! Call 719-333-2940 or email [usafaoap@gmail.com](mailto:usafaoap@gmail.com) to check availability and pricing for your custom experience.

## **OAP Volunteers Wanted**

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help us with biking, climbing, hiking, or any other trips we offer, email us at [usafaoap@gmail.com](mailto:usafaoap@gmail.com) and we will tell you how to become an official OAP volunteer!

# **TAKE IT OUTSIDE!**



## OAP CANCELLATION POLICY

- » Full payment for all trips is due at time of registration.
- » All trips are subject to cancellation due to unsafe weather or conditions outside of our control. In this event, the trip may be rescheduled, or you may opt for a refund minus irretrievable deposits. In the case of cancellation due to insufficient participation, a full refund will be issued.
- » Cancellations within 7 days of the single-day activity start date will NOT be refunded or rescheduled unless otherwise stated.
- » Cancellations within 30 days of a multi-day activity start date will NOT be refunded unless someone takes your place on the activity. Any refunds issued in this case will result in a service fee of 10% of the total price for the activity.
- » Cancellations 30 days or more before a multiday activity start date are refundable in full unless otherwise stated.
- » Refunds may be given within 30 days of the activity when a medical emergency or military TDY/PCS orders prohibit participation. A dated and signed doctor's note or signed orders must be presented within 72hrs of the document issue date in order to receive a refund in these cases. If a refund is given for a multi-day trip in this instance, OAP will retain a service fee of 10% of the total price for the activity. No refunds will be given in these cases after 30 days from the trip start date.
- » "No Shows" are non-refundable and will not be rescheduled.



**NOTICE:** A High Risk Activities Worksheet (AF 4391) is required to participate in ANY high risk activity, for ALL Active Duty Personnel. It is required to be completed by Active Duty Personnel before they participate in most of our Outdoor Rec Adventure Programs. This responsibility lies solely on the Active Duty participant.