



Avalanche Research + Education

AIARE Recreational Avalanche Instructor and Course Leader

Qualifications and Continuing Education Requirements

Effective November 1, 2017

Updated June 1, 2018

AIARE Course Leader

An AIARE Course Leader is an experienced educator and avalanche professional with a minimum of seven seasons of winter backcountry experience and leadership along with significant experience teaching the entire AIARE course progression.

Qualified AIARE Instructors become AIARE Course Leaders by successfully completing a Course Leader Training (CLT) and having a course leader application approved. AIARE Course Leaders maintain their course leader status by remaining current on yearly dues and continuing education requirements.

AIARE Course Leaders are qualified to lead the following AIARE programs: Avalanche Awareness, Avalanche Rescue, AIARE 1, and AIARE 2. *A qualified AIARE Course Leader is required to be present for the entirety of the AIARE 1 and 2 Courses, as well as any AIARE course that includes travel in or near avalanche terrain.*

Course Leader Training Qualification

The following minimum qualifications must be met in order to apply for an AIARE Course Leader Training. No exceptions or exemptions are made for these qualifications.

- 7 seasons of winter backcountry experience¹ involving leadership and decision making in avalanche terrain
- Experience instructing AIARE 1, AIARE 2, and Avalanche Rescue courses
- A Pro 2 certificate or equivalent²
- Letter of recommendation from an AIARE Course Leader outlining competence delivering AIARE curriculum and readiness to take the Course Leader Training

Course Leader Application

Course Leader Training participants are assessed during the Course Leader Training. Participants successfully passing the CLT can apply for Course Leader status by becoming a professional member of A3 and submitting a course leader application.

Maintaining Course Leader Status

AIARE Course Leaders maintain their course leader status by:

- Participating in yearly AIARE Instructor Professional Development
- Remaining current on their AIARE Instructor and A3 membership dues
- Keeping up to date on curriculum changes and updating teaching materials as they become available

¹ Experience is defined using A3 guidelines for membership: 20 or more days of backcountry travel constitutes one season. These are documented days where the applicant is making decisions in avalanche terrain. Those who travel to South America or New Zealand during the North American summer can accumulate 2 seasons in one calendar year. Experience can be verified by documentation or by a letter from a professional member of A3 and can involve a combination of professional and recreational backcountry travel.

² Course Leader or Instructor applicants who feel they have the equivalent training and certification can apply for a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and equivalence. Current AIARE Instructors and Course leaders who have a pre Nov. 1st, 2017 AIARE 3 certificate meet the equivalence of a Pro 2.

AIARE Instructor

An AIARE Instructor is an experienced backcountry traveler with a minimum of five seasons of winter backcountry experience.

Qualified individuals become AIARE Instructors by successfully completing an AIARE Instructor Training Course and submitting an instructor application. AIARE Instructors maintain their instructor status by remaining current on yearly dues and continuing education requirements.

On every AIARE program, AIARE Avalanche Instructors are mentored under the direct supervision of an AIARE Course Leader. AIARE Instructors can lead Avalanche Awareness courses (including field session) and Avalanche Rescue courses, so long as no activities are conducted in or near avalanche terrain. Any AIARE courses that do travel in or near avalanche terrain require an AIARE Course Leader present. AIARE Instructors leading Avalanche Rescue Courses are required to be professional members of A3.

Instructor Training Course Qualification

The following minimum qualifications must be met in order to apply for an AIARE Instructor Training Course. No exceptions or exemptions are made for these qualifications.

- 5 seasons of winter backcountry experience³ involving leadership and decision making in avalanche terrain
- Recent (within 4 years) attendance on an AIARE 1, 2 and Avalanche Rescue course
- A Pro 1 certificate or equivalent^{4,5}

Instructor Application

Instructor Training participants are assessed during the Instructor Training. Participants successfully completing the Instructor Training Course can apply for Instructor status by becoming a professional or affiliate member of A3 and submitting an instructor application.

Maintaining Instructor Status

AIARE Instructors maintain their instructor status by:

- Participating in yearly AIARE Instructor Professional Development
- Remaining current on their AIARE Instructor and A3 membership dues
- Keeping up to date on curriculum changes and updating teaching materials as they become available

³ Experience is defined using A3 guidelines for membership: 20 or more days of backcountry travel constitutes one season. These are documented days where the applicant is making decisions in avalanche terrain. Those who travel to South America or New Zealand during the North American summer can accumulate 2 seasons in one calendar year. Experience can be verified by documentation or by a letter from a professional member of A3 and can involve a combination of professional and recreational backcountry travel.

⁴ AIARE Instructors who currently qualify as instructors prior to Nov. 1st, 2017, have 3 years from this date to obtain the PRO 1 certificate.

⁵ Course Leader or Instructor applicants who feel they have the equivalent training and certification can apply for a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and equivalence. Current AIARE Instructors and Course leaders who have a pre Nov. 1st, 2017 AIARE 3 certificate meet the equivalence of a Pro 2.

Apprentice Instructor

AIARE supports the long-held tradition of mentorship of aspiring avalanche instructors or apprentices. AIARE defines Apprentices as aspiring instructors who do not yet meet AIARE Instructor qualifications. One Apprentice can assist in each field group, under the direct supervision and mentorship of an AIARE Course Leader or Instructor. During this apprenticeship, individuals gain familiarity with the AIARE curriculum, as well as building reference experiences that form an essential foundation for engaged participation in the AIARE Instructor Training.

AIARE Instructor Continuing Education

AIARE Continuing Education (CE) seeks to provide AIARE Instructors and Course Leaders the opportunity to choose from a menu of options in order to tailor professional development to meet the interests or needs of each individual instructor.

Continuing education works on a three year cycle beginning the first full season after an individual becomes an AIARE Instructor. In each three year cycle, Instructors need to take at least one field course and can count one approved non-AIARE offering towards continuing education. The AIARE Course Leader Training, Pro 1 Course or Bridge Exam, and Pro 2 all count as AIARE Continuing Education field courses.

Instructors pay dues and submit continuing education credits in October of each year. Instructors who do not pay dues, or submit proof of continuing education by October 31 become inactive (not able to teach) until they do. Instructors who become inactive because they didn't meet their field course requirement in three years remain inactive until they complete their field course. After Instructors are inactive for one year or more, they need to complete one AIARE field course and one additional AIARE course to return to active status.

Some examples:

<p>Example 1</p> <p>Year 1: AIARE Bridge Exam Year 2: regional SAW Year 3: AIARE CE classroom course</p>	<p>Example 2</p> <p>Year 1: AIARE Pro 2 Year 2: AIARE CLT Year 3: AMGA Ski Guides Course</p>
<p>Example 3</p> <p>Year 1: Pro 1 Year 2: AIARE CE webinar course Year 3: AIARE CE classroom course</p>	<p>Example 3</p> <p>Year 1: ISSW Year 2: AIARE CE webinar course Year 3: AIARE CE field course</p>

Non-AIARE Courses approved for Continuing Education Credits (as of 6/1/2018)

Field Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAA Level 1 or 2 • AMGA Ski Guide or Advanced Ski Guide Course • Pro 1 or Bridge Exam provided by an A3 Course Provider • Pro 2 provided by an A3 Course Provider
Classroom/Webinar/Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional SAW • ISSW (attendance or poster presentation)