



**SWS Mountain Guides**  
110 Alpine St.  
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067  
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Phone: 888.797.6867

## **CERTIFIED AVALANCHE COURSE LEVEL 2**

### **Bear Valley, CA.**

#### **Avalanche Processes & Leadership**



**Instructor:** Avalanche Level 2 Course is taught by AAA **Certified** Avalanche Instructor Timothy Keating with 35 plus years of mountain guiding experience. Course Curriculum is **Certified and Approved** by [American Avalanche Association](#) Certified **AAA Level 2 Course Curriculum**.

**General Description:** Avalanche Level 2 Course consists of 24 plus hours of instruction in lecture, video, discussion, and field study in the Mt. Shasta Backcountry. Avalanche Level 2 Course is designed to build on the necessary information and skills developed in the Avalanche level 1 course and then explore deeper into the up to date science behind avalanches. The goal is to give students a more technical understanding how avalanches develop and release so that they are able to make wiser, potentially life-saving decisions in avalanche terrain. Our course is perfect for a variety of winter recreationist's; backcountry skiers, ski mountaineer's, snowmobiler's, as well as professionals, including; backcountry rangers, ski patrol, and another winter professional working in the outdoors.

The Avalanche Level 2 Course is a more advanced field study aimed to give a greater understanding of snow science and how avalanches develop and release. A review of snow mechanics along with avalanche hazards evaluation will be taught through both lectures and hands-on training. The field study portion will focus on the newest snow assessment techniques to help develop robust decision making in the both the front and backcountry. Included in the course curriculum is the most modern advances in avalanche rescue techniques & equipment. Give us a call if you have any questions.

**Prerequisite:** Level I avalanche course either AAA Certified or Aiaire Avalanche Course Level I or equivalent or Level 1 Refresher in last five years & course provider's recommended reading. **Note:** *Level 1 is not to be taken in the same season as Level 2*

**Location & Meeting:** Meets at our California Ski Guides / SWS Mountain Guides **Bear Valley Office: 265 Bear Valley Rd, Bear Valley, CA. 95332** at **8:00 am** on the first day of the course.

**Group Size:** Limited to 6 clients

**Instructor to Client Ratio:** 1:6

**What to Expect:** Participants will not be traveling fast. We will be skiing/snowshoeing over calculated routes that afford as much in the way of safely accessible avalanche terrain as possible. Stops will frequently be made for discussion of terrain, snow conditions, vegetation, weather, and anything related to avalanches. Your instructor will be thinking out loud, giving reasons for choosing a certain route or for not crossing a particular slope. Participants will put into practice all the techniques of field hazard evaluation.



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**Food and Lodging Bear Valley:** Food and Lodging is not included in this course. Lodging is available at the Bear Valley Lodge, Tamarack Lodge, or in the towns of Arnold, CA (18 miles away) or Murphys, CA (25 miles away) or at various Airbnb's in the Bear Valley area. We will meet our California Ski Guides/ SWS Mountain Guides Bear Valley Office each day and return to Bear Valley Office each evening. More information give us a call at: 888-797-6867.

**Level:** Participants are required to be in good physical condition. Snowshoeing and backcountry skiing experience is recommended but not required.

**Pricing and Dates:** For updated pricing and dates please visit our website at: [www.swsmountainguides.com](http://www.swsmountainguides.com) or [californiaski-guides.com](http://californiaski-guides.com)

**Includes:** Professional instruction/guides, student A3 handbook, course materials, permits, and permit fees.

**Recommended Reading Level 2:**

[Avalanche Essentials: A Step-By-Step System for Safety and Survival](#) by Bruce Tremper – 2013 Edition [purchase from Amazon here](#)

[Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain](#) by Bruce Tremper – third edition 2018 [purchase from Amazon here](#)

[Snow, Weather, and Avalanches: \(SWAG\) Observational Guidelines for Avalanche Programs in the United States](#), 4th edition 2022 edition United State Forest Service – Electronic can be purchased online for \$17.99 or at Amazon.com for \$27.50 or Hardcopy can be [purchased for \\$27.50 from the American Avalanche Association](#).  
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