



**PROFESSIONAL
SKI INSTRUCTORS
OF EUROPE** EST
2024



Backcountry Education Level 2 Training Course Overview

Evaluation of Candidates Ability to Lead Backcountry Skiing

This 3 day evaluation of the candidate's ability to apply the material from their **Level 1 and 2 Training**, the experience they've gathered while completing their touring list, their general familiarity with backcountry terrain and equipment, and their ability to make decisions in the backcountry.

Day 1 - Short tour, Review important material, practice with transceivers

Meet and overall review of course material. Practice companion rescue, evaluate candidate's ability to ski in backcountry snow and verify all equipment is working and candidate's familiarity with their gear.

Companion Rescue- Candidates will practice their individual rescue of two buried victims. They may also be evaluated at this point.

Candidates must :

- Notify Rescue services
- Locate two beacons and extract 1 (depth 1.5 meters) in under 8 minutes **using correct, step by step techniques according to the Avalanche Rescue Checklist.** (Verify safety of rescue area, correct probing and shovelling).

Review important snowpack terms, types of avalanches, and **Red Flag** clues and the problems they indicate.

Homework- Using the **Trip Planning Checklist** and working as a team, candidates will prepare the following day's tour, and a Plan B. Case study.



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Each candidate should prepare a section of the tour to lead.

-6 hours

Day 2 - Candidates lead their prepared ski tour. Special attention is given to navigation and group management, plus familiarity with backcountry equipment (touring bindings, skins, transceiver, backcountry pack, etc).

Snowpack- Evaluation of candidates' ability to test and identify weak layers in the snowpack and choose relevant areas to do these tests. Candidates should be able to identify the avalanche types and the conditions that create them. Must be familiar with the **Five Red Flags**.

Companion Rescue- Exam for students doing the companion rescue. Individual companion rescue (2 beacons in 8 minutes using correct techniques, as listed above).

Debrief- Debrief of the days tour. Critical evaluation of each individual candidate's section. Discuss the case study.

Homework- Prepare the last day's tour, Case Study.

-6 hours

Day 3 - Candidates lead their prepared ski tour. Navigation and group management should be very good. Expert familiarity with backcountry equipment (touring bindings, skins, transceiver, backcountry pack, etc. is required. Evaluation of candidates' ability to test and identify weak layers in the snowpack and choose relevant areas to do these tests

Companion Rescue- Group rescue scenarios. Candidates should be capable of organising and participating in a group rescue per the Avalanche Rescue Checklist. Individual rescue for candidates who need to re-test.



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Debrief- Critique of the day's tour. Individual criticism for candidates.

Final Debrief- Group and/ or individual Final thoughts moving forward, emphasising continued practice, the value of accumulated experience and the unfortunate statistical reality of accidents in the backcountry among professionals. Importance of planning, following the steps in the checklist, and adhering to an objective standard when making decisions in the field.

-6 hours