



Touring Leadership I Course Itinerary

Touring Leadership I (TL1), the first intro to winter-touring from Climbers of Color focuses on equipping leaders with skills and procedures to explore and ride terrain where they seek it.

Many components go behind a safe and actionable ski/splitboard tour and TL1 will serve to provide an introduction to a lifelong craft of learning & application.

Whether in the shadows of Shuksan or deep in old-growth forest in Snoqualmie Territory, the topics TL1 will cover include (but not limited to):

- Building a touring group
- Intro to NWAC or your local avalanche center
- Tour planning, route finding & navigation
- Intro to mountain weather forecasts and avalanche forecasts
- Setting safe and efficient skin-tracks
- Companion Rescue scenarios and beacon FAQs
- Gear selection considerations and much more.

*Participants who sign up for this course will likely have different background knowledge on these skill sets and our goal will be to leave with the same understanding and competencies, as a group, together.

[Gear List](#)

DISCLAIMER: *This is not an AIARE Level 1/Companion Rescue course. The focus of TL1 is to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills in the backcountry alongside becoming a competent team member and backcountry leader. Although aspects of backcountry travel/ snow safety and awareness will be covered, by no means does this course cover the material an AIARE Level 1 or a cCompanion Rescue course provide. We at Climbers of Color encourage you to seek a dedicated avalanche course like those prior to TL1 to properly help further your leadership skills in the backcountry. We also offer AIARE 1 classes for those looking for more education prior to taking this course and registration for those sessions will open in mid-December 2021 and those sessions will take place prior to these TL1 classes.*



Touring Leadership I Course Itinerary

Day 1 - Evening Lecture

5:00pm - Meetup at the Mountaineers for the evening, begin meeting team, reviewing gear, covering navigation, terrain angle exercises, intro to NWAC, Wx/Fx. This classroom intensive evening will be broken up with a break or two, so snacks, dinner, etc. are all encouraged to bring.

Homework: Create a tour plan using classroom instructions to be presented the beginning of day 2

Evening overview:

- Introductions (20 min)
 - Gear Check (30 min)
5 min break
 - Partner Check (30 min)
5 min break
 - Intro to forecast center & mountain Wx (45 min)
5 min break
 - Alpine-tour plan/navigation(45 min)
5 min break
 - Terrain angle exercise (1 hr)
- Total: 3.5 hrs (5pm-8:30pm)

Day 2 - Field Day 1

8:00 am - Meetup at respective trailhead/parking lot, review gear check, layering considerations & skin management.

8:30am - Begin tour planning review/homework presentations; group decision (with guide input) on best tour for the day matching team skills, dynamics & AVI danger

8:30am-4pm - Cover basics of alpine-touring including but not limited to:

- Layering for uphill vs. downhill
- Skin management
- Transition for uphill vs. downhill movement
- Kick turns
- Efficient uphill travel
- Group skiing in the backcountry
- Hydration & nutrition in the winter
- Companion rescue

4:00pm - 5:00pm:

- Begin descent to parking lot/car
- Debrief day
 - Thoughts on what was good, what was bad and how to improve it?
- What was not covered on day 2?
 - Carry over to Day 3
- Considerations for Day 3 of travel
 - Assign homework of additional tour plans based upon Day 2 conditions, movement, skills, etc.

Day 3 - Field Day 2**8:00am**

- Meetup at parking lot/trailhead
- Tour plan homework presentation/consideration
- Review of Day 2
- Assign different legs of the day to various leaders in the group

8:30am - 4pm:

- Begin tour for the day
- Companion rescue scenarios
- Cover any material missed from Day 2
- Allowing time for comprehensive debrief of course

4pm-4:30pm

- Begin descent to parking lot/car
- Debrief day/course



Touring Leadership I Course Information FAQ

Course dates (consisting of 1 classroom evening and 2 field days):

- March 11-13, 2021
- March 18-20, 2021
- March 25-27, 2021

Tuition (on a sliding scale): \$375 - \$475

Prerequisites:

- Safely able to descend black-diamond terrain in variable conditions (powder, ice, crust, etc.)
- Alpine-touring compatible gear (see gear list)
- Be able Hike 4000'+ feet per day

FAQs

- **I have the hardware (split board, skins, beacon, shovel, probe, etc.) but don't have XYZ gear on the list, should I still sign up?**
 - Yes! The absolute essentials for this course include a flotation device (Skis/ Split board) + touring bindings & compatible boots; Beacon; Shovel; Avalanche Probe; Skins compatible to your skis/board; at least a 30L pack; helmet; poles; goggles. There are many rental options in the area including but not limited to Ascent Outdoors, REI, Pro-Ski Shop, Gearhouse, Wonderland Gear. Clothes that are worn in the resort, although heavy, will suffice for this course.
- **I don't know anything about avalanches, should I sign up for this course?**
 - Yes! Introductory components will be covered in our course, both in the classroom and in the field. Consider viewing an Avalanche Awareness course provided by NWAC before the course begins and if possible, consider taking a dedicated avalanche course like an AIARE Level 1 that we offer to complement the skills we work on learning together.
- **I don't have any of the gear, nor any avalanche experience and have been on a snowboard a few times. Is this a good course to start with?**
 - We appreciate the eagerness and excitement, though it will be best spent honing downhill movement skills. The backcountry serves variable conditions pitting our movement efficiencies as a primary skill to always be tested. Consider attending online avalanche courses, such as NWAC's Avalanche Awareness while you perfect your downhill movement in the resort. We will see you in the backcountry soon!

