Summary - Ski/Splitboard Programs

- Elevation range: 7000-9,500 ft.
- Elevation gain: 1500 - 3000 ft daily
- Travel distances: 3-5 miles daily
- Experience and competency on skis or snowboard with ~30lb pack is required

Location: Mammoth Lakes, CA
Lodging and food are not included in the course cost. There are several lodging and grocery options in the town of Mammoth Lakes. Due to weather and road conditions, it is strongly advised that students stay in town. Bishop is located approximately 50 miles away and can be difficult to access during Sierra snow storms. We recommend students work together to secure and share lodging in Mammoth Lakes.

AIARE will plan for all of our classroom sessions to take place in person, however, there is a chance the classroom portion will be conducted virtually due to COVID-19. If a move from in-person classroom sessions to virtual classroom sessions happens, we will notify you as soon as possible. Due to the uncertainties and many factors involved we ask for your flexibility and willingness to adapt. For the duration of the course, you should plan to stay somewhere that has reliable internet that can withstand Zoom meetings in the event the classroom portion needs to be virtual. Please read our COVID-19 Course Disclosure prior to enrollment.

Lift access will be provided to facilitate learning objectives on certain days and are included in the price of the course. This is a time-intensive course and you should be prepared, mentally and physically, for long days (up to ten hours) in the field and in the classroom. All students must meet AIARE’s Essential Eligibility requirements in order to participate.

Environment
Weather can be highly variable from sunshine to snow and/or rain and temperatures can be sub-zero degrees Fahrenheit. Because of the environmental factors, you must be able to practice self-care that minimizes the possibility of hypothermia, frostbite and non-freezing cold injury.

Terrain
Travel requires moving in mountainous terrain and variable snow conditions, both uphill and downhill on skis (AT or telemark) or splitboards efficiently by ascending 900-1200 ft/hour.

Equipment
Participating in an AIARE course requires modern, well maintained backcountry and rescue gear. Bringing old, or marginally functioning gear is a detriment to the learning environment and could negatively affect the safety of the group. Please review our PRO Course Equipment List for more details.