



Rescue Dynamics

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Greetings,

This letter will serve to introduce you to the Introductory Ski Touring & Glacier Travel Course. The dates and location for the courses for this winter are not yet set. The 2006 cost of the course is \$185.00 including GST.

In order for you to be confirmed on the course you must prepay the course fee, complete the personal information form, then read, understand and sign the waiver. The waiver must be witnessed by someone other than a family member. Cheques should be made payable to Rescue Dynamics. If you have not paid, your spot is NOT yet confirmed. We reserve the right to cancel the course in the event of severe weather or low enrollment. Should this happen, your course fees will be refunded. See our website for complete cancellation policies and procedures.

These courses are NOT recommended for beginner skiers. If you do not have reasonable experience skiing off track in ungroomed variable snow conditions with a pack on your back, we strongly urge you to attend the "Introduction to Backcountry Touring and Ski Techniques" course. This course is usually offered shortly before each Glacier Travel course.

You can combine this course with "Introductory Avalanche Safety, Search and Rescue" plus "Introduction to Backcountry Touring & Ski Techniques" back to back to make the six day "Complete Introduction to Winter Ski Touring".

This course introduces you to ski touring on glaciated terrain including roped travel, crevasse rescue, track setting, route finding and related topics. The first day will be mostly classroom with some outdoor work near the classroom and the second day will be a glacier field trip. The instruction for this course takes place in Jasper or Canmore with the second day at the Columbia Icefields.

We will provide instruction and all the technical equipment. Do NOT rent any avalanche or climbing equipment for this course. If you own your own beacon, shovel, probe or harness, feel free to bring them. We DO NOT provide skis, climbing skins, boots, poles or clothing. Skis, boots and skins can be rented from MEC in Edmonton, Gravity Gear in Jasper or various outlets in Calgary and Banff.

You will require either good quality telemark or alpine touring (randonee) equipment including warm boots and clothing. Lightweight cross country track skis or skating skis are totally inadequate. We recommend skis with a minimum 90 to 100mm width at the tip. The wider the better for more flotation in difficult glacier conditions.

If you want to join us on a snowboard please contact us in advance so we can make allowances in our route planning. Boarders must own, borrow or rent a split - board for ease of travel in a

mixed group. If you are not sure about gear, give us a call.

You will require a LARGE day pack to carry your food, clothes and a share of the group gear. During the second day we will be doing rescue practice which will have us stationary in the cold. Many people get cold feet standing in the cold in cross country ski boots - be prepared! Be sure your clothing can handle the changes in mountain environment, including extreme cold, wind, snow and bright sun. Spare gloves / mitts are a must. The course will proceed in all but the most severe weather. The course equipment list may help you to prepare for the course.

You are responsible for your own meals, accommodation and transportation for the entire course. Be sure to prepare a bag lunch and bring water or other drinks for each day of the course, as we do not return to the vehicles for lunch. A good lightweight thermos is often handy.

Meeting time and place for the Canmore courses is 8:00 am, on the first day in the Meeting Room in the Alpine Club of Canada Clubhouse just outside Canmore. Meeting time and place for the Jasper courses is 8:00 am, on the first day at the classroom downstairs in the Jasper / Yellowhead Museum and Archives. Be completely ready for an indoor class at that time, but bring warm clothes for a possible outdoor session later in the afternoon. Persons unfamiliar with these locations can check our website for maps to be posted prior to each course (or call for directions). The second day will most likely be at the Columbia Icefields in all cases.

Jasper course participants may wish to book to stay at the Jasper International Hostel near Jasper. It is dormitory style accommodation with modern facilities including showers. Jasper hostel bookings are made at (780) 852-3215. You may also want to check into booking private home accommodation in Jasper.

Canmore course participants may wish to book to stay at the ACC Clubhouse in Canmore. It is dormitory style accommodation with modern facilities including showers. ACC Clubhouse bookings are made at (403) 678-3200. For more deluxe rooms in Canmore, the Rocky Mountain Ski Lodge (Motel) offers good rates (1-800-665-6111).

Members of the Alberta Motor Association (CAA / AAA) may want to check with AMA Travel for low vacation getaway rates on motel / hotel style accommodation. Jasper in January is also a good time for excellent hotel / motel deals.

You must have a valid Park Vehicle Group Pass or Personal Pass to attend this course, as we are travelling in National Park areas. Be sure to purchase one when you first enter the Park if you do not already have one.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely

Cyril Shokoples EMT, UIAGM
Chief Instructor / Mountain Guide