

# American Alpine Institute

## Single Pitch Instructor Certification Course

- Course Itinerary -

### Meeting Time and Location

Red Rock Canyon: Participants will meet at the covered picnic area located in the Red Springs Picnic Area in Calico Basin in Red Rock Canyon at 7:30 in the morning on the first day of the course or exam. The road to Red Springs may be found just a short distance west of the campground, between the campground road and the entrance to the Red Rock Scenic Drive. Take the first right-hand turn past Moenkopi Road and drive a short distance through a semi-residential area to the Red Springs Parking Lot.

Leavenworth: Participants will meet at Johnny Creek Campground on the Icicle Creek road at 7:30 in the morning on the first day of the course or exam.

Mount Erie: Participants will meet at the summit parking lot at Mount Erie just outside of Anacortes at 7:30 in the morning on the first day of the course or exam.

For all other course locations, please contact the AAI office for meeting times and places.

### Course Curriculum and Contents

The following is a brief overview of the main points that will be discussed and practiced throughout the duration of the course. Weather or other environmental factors may change the order of the curriculum.

#### Day One:

- Introduction to the AMGA and the Rock Certification Process.
- Carpool to the Instructional location
- Discussion of climbing equipment and its importance to the climbing instructor.
- Review of instructor knots and hitches
- Instructor and student belay techniques
- Management of the climbing site
- Instructional anchors and rock protection
- Teaching techniques and risk management for the climbing instructor

#### Day Two:

- Professionalism in climbing instruction
- Development of practical skills for top-managed sites
- Climbing site organization and group management
- Discussion and practice of lowering techniques
- Assistance skills for a top-managed site.

#### Day Three:

- Development of practical skills required for a bottom-managed site
- Review of assistance skills required for a bottom-managed site.

- Techniques to teach climbing movement
- Review Sessions
- Individual and group debriefs

### **American Alpine Institute SPI Assessment Candidate Pre-Requisites**

The two-day SPI Certification Exam may be taken directly following the SPI course if the candidate successfully completes the course and meets the assessment pre-requisites. However, it is highly recommended that the SPI graduate takes time practicing and consolidating the skills learned on the course before assessment.

You meet the SPI Certification Exam pre-requisites if:

- 1) You have successfully completed the AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Course or the AMGA Top-Rope Site Manager Course.
- 2) You have trad lead climbed a minimum of 40 graded rock routes. A large number of these should have been 5.6 or harder.
- 3) You are capable of comfortably leading traditional routes at the 5.6 grade in a variety of settings (i.e. crack, face, slab, etc.). You will be asked to demonstrate your leading ability throughout the assessment.
- 4) You are capable of comfortably climbing 5.8 while on top-rope.

To gain SPI Certification, candidates must:

- 1) Successfully pass the SPI Assessment
- 2) Hold current AMGA Membership at the Associate Level or higher
- 3) Hold appropriate current First Aid Certification for the area where you desire to work. (*Please see the SPI Program Manual for more information on first aid requirements.*)