



GLACIER SKILLS AND CREVASSE RESCUE

Mt. Baker, WA

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Program Details:

The Glacier Skills and Crevasse Rescue course is a three-day hands-on class that fully takes place on the Coleman Deming Glacier on the north side of Mt. Baker. The intent is to give students the fundamental skills to be a contributing member of a rope team and to build your toolkit in order to kick off your mountaineering career.

Difficulty Grade:

Beginner to Moderate

Program cost Inclusions and Exclusions:

Inclusions: Permits and access fees; Transportation during the course; Guide; Group technical equipment; Biffy bags.

Exclusions: Food costs; Personal equipment; Lodging costs (for the night before your course starts and the night you come back to Bellingham); Personal health, Baggage and Trip Insurance; Transportation before and after your course dates.

Itinerary:

Day 1 – Rendezvous at the AAI Equipment Shop and Head to Mt. Baker (6400ft/1951m)

Plan to meet your fellow climbers and instructor(s) at the AAI Equipment Shop promptly at 7:00am. Your guide(s) will take the time to go over equipment, finalize rentals and purchases, review the itinerary, and ensure everyone is adequately prepared.

Once everyone is ready we will make the roughly one and a half hour drive up to the north side of Mt. Baker and park at the Heliotrope trailhead at 3700 feet. The hike to the Hogsback basecamp is anywhere between two and a half to three miles depending on where we decide to set up camp, generally between 5400 feet and 6400 feet. Once we arrive we will set up camp and spend the rest of the day discussing concepts of glacier travel, glaciation, mountain weather, and geology. We may start on snow skills today if time allows.

Day 2 – Glacier Skills (7000ft/2133m)

We will get an early start today and make our way up onto the Coleman Deming glacier, roughly an additional half mile to one mile to an appropriate location to practice ice axe and crampon use, glacier travel, rope work, snow anchors, self-arrest, and navigation. Today and the next day will be full days of

hands-on practice. If students seem ready we may move on to concepts of crevasse rescue later in the day. Otherwise, we will hike back down to camp for the evening.

Day 3 – Crevasse Rescue (7000ft/2133m)

The focus of today is team crevasse rescue and the specifics of self-rescue (prussiking). We will once again hike up onto the glacier to an appropriate location to practice. Once we feel climber have a solid grasp we will hike back down to camp, pack up and hike out to the trailhead. We aim to have everyone back at the AAI equipment shop between 3-7pm, depending on weather and group pace.