

AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

INFORMED CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN CONDUCTED IN MOUNTAINOUS OR BACKCOUNTRY TERRAIN. THESE COURSES INVOLVE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS IN ADDITION TO THOSE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH BEING IN A MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT. ALL AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF MAJORITY MUST HAVE THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGN THIS INFORMED CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK DOCUMENT.

BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I CONSENT TO MY CHILD’S PARTICIPATION IN THE COURSE IDENTIFIED BELOW AND I ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THAT TRAVEL IN MOUNTAINOUS OR BACKCOUNTRY TERRAIN INVOLVES RISK AND DANGERS AND THAT MY CHILD COULD BE INJURED OR KILLED. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM DOES NOT IN ITSELF QUALIFY MY CHILD TO SAFELY TRAVEL THROUGH AVALANCHE PRONE TERRAIN.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

INITIAL

Name of child participant		Date of birth YYYY-MM-DD
Mailing Address		
City	Prov.	Postal Code
Avalanche Skills Training 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of course
Avalanche Skills Training 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Date
Companion Rescue Skills Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Managing Avalanche Terrain Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	

DEFINITIONS

In this Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk Document:

- a) the term "MOUNTAIN TRAVEL" shall include but is not limited to skiing; snowboarding; snowshoeing; hiking and climbing; and all travel by snowmobile, snowcat, motor vehicle, aircraft, helicopter, and other conveyances.
- b) the term "AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING" shall include all courses, seminars, workshops, field activities, services and use of facilities in any way related to the avalanche course my child is participating in including, but not limited to: classroom sessions; field trips; and all mountain travel either within or beyond the ski area boundaries or in the backcountry; and all transportation by air or on public or private roads or highways in connection with the Course.

AVALANCHE CANADA’S ROLE IN AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING

Avalanche Canada (“AvCan”) facilitates avalanche safety training in Canada by developing nationally recognized avalanche course standards and providing support and instructional materials to independent instructors who in turn deliver the Avalanche Skills Training (“AST”) programs.

- AvCan does not certify AST instructors or monitor their performance as instructors.
- AvCan does not supervise or control the classroom or outdoors activities or safety decisions of AST instructors.
- AvCan does not choose the terrain or monitor the conditions for AST field sessions.
- AST Instructors are not employees, agents, representatives, independent contractors, or subcontractors of AvCan.
- AvCan assumes no liability for loss, injury or death incurred during participation in AST programs.

INITIAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS - AVALANCHES, MOUNTAIN TRAVEL, WEATHER, ETC. I am aware that the field sessions of the Avalanche Skills Training program may take place in mountainous or backcountry terrain and involve various risks, dangers and hazards. I acknowledge and accept that the AST Instructor may fail to predict whether the terrain is safe for travel or whether avalanches may occur. Further risks, dangers or hazards may include but are not limited to: ice and snow cornices; trees, tree wells and tree stumps; creeks; rocks and boulders; forest deadfall; holes and depressions on or beneath the snow surface; cliffs; variable and difficult snow conditions; crevasses; winter travel on highways and backcountry roads; snowcat roads and road banks, fences, and other man-made structures; becoming lost or separated from the Instructor or other Course participants; extreme and rapidly changing weather conditions; observing or participating in snow control programs, encounters with hunters or domestic or wild animals, including bears; negligence of other persons; infectious disease contracted through viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi which may be transmitted through direct or indirect contact; mechanical failure of snowmobiles, snowcats and related equipment; impact or collision with other persons or snowmobiles, snowcats and other vehicles; failure to operate a snowmobile safely or within one's own ability; AND NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES. I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE INCLUDES FAILURE BY THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT MY CHILD FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

I AM AWARE OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH MY CHILD’S PARTICIPATION IN THE AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM AND I UNDERSTAND ALL SUCH RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, PROPERTY DAMAGE TO MY CHILD OR LOSS RESULTING THEREFROM.

INITIAL

I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK DOCUMENT

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Name of Parent or Guardian

Name of Child Participant

Who are the AST Instructors?

AST Providers are not employees of Avalanche Canada. Avalanche Canada does not control, supervise, oversee, or manage any of the instructors or their courses.

All instructors are members of the Canadian Avalanche Association, the organization representing avalanche professionals in Canada. Instructors must meet the membership requirements of their professional organization and are required to carry liability insurance coverage.

We encourage parents to thoroughly research the instructor's experience in teaching AST courses to youth.



Enrolling in Avalanche Skills Training 1 or 2 is a good sign your child is taking their backcountry education seriously.

AST courses provide students with a systematic and proven method of managing avalanche risk in the backcountry. These courses are the essential early steps in a life-long journey towards knowledge of avalanche safety.

There is always an inherent risk when travelling in avalanche terrain.

Taking a course shows your child is interested in learning how to better understand this risk. They will learn a consistent and cautious approach to travelling in the backcountry, and methods that will serve them well in the future.

Young participants in AST courses are often extremely proficient at their chosen sport. Their skills at skiing, boarding, or snowmobiling can be vastly superior to their ability to assess and manage avalanche terrain, even after the course. Taking a course does not make your child immune from encountering or being harmed by avalanches.

We developed this brochure to ensure you are aware of the limits of this education. Young students can become over confident after completing avalanche training.

Your child has enrolled in an Avalanche Skills Training Course.
What does this mean?



What are the objectives of the AST 1 course?

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand the basics of avalanche formation and release.
- Identify avalanche terrain.
- Know the steps required to plan and carry out a trip.
- Use appropriate travel techniques in avalanche terrain.
- Carry out a companion rescue.
- Understand the limits of their training

What are the objectives of the AST 2 course?

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate how to use the decision-making skills of a group to manage avalanche risk.
- Use intermediate to advanced concepts to describe the framework of avalanche terrain and snowpack.
- Plan and carry out trips using the seven steps of the Daily Process.
- Organize and lead companion rescue.
- Understand the limits of their training.



Brittney Dickson

Avalanche Canada Training

Avalanche Canada Training is the national standard for recreational avalanche education. Course curricula, instructor support, and resources for students and instructors are all developed and provided by Avalanche Canada. All this material is science based and reflects current best practices.

The suite of courses offered through Avalanche Canada Training provides students with a solid foundation on which to build their backcountry experience. The material taught integrates fully with other Avalanche Canada services, including the daily regional avalanche forecasts.



Founding Partner
of the AST program