

Curriculum:

- Advanced Pre-trip planning including historical snowpack, layer of concern, triggers, weather, conditions and the target of the best snow, slopes and quality outing possible given the conditions preferably in complex terrain. (Participants provided pre-clinic objectives for the trip plan)
- Flow: The clinic strives to maintain smooth flow throughout the day, continuously moving forward with a “learn as we go” approach
- Uphill: The goal is safe, effective and efficient track setting towards chosen objective while gathering snowpack and conditions information. Situational Awareness, Strategic Trip Plan Implementation, Terrain Management, Advanced Track Setting, Pre-planned or opportunistic Snowpack Testing, Recording Snowpack and Weather Observations, Human Factors, Group Management.
- Creative & Effective Terrain Selection: The art of using the terrain to ones advantage to yield either the highest quantity of quality skiing, to ski a specific high quality objective or slope entrance and/or a mixture of the two. Such techniques as rappelling/boot packing into an amazing slope, setting up an “industrial” uptrack highway (allows for efficient maximization of runs), cutting out and navigating a cornice entrance, etc.
- Downhill: Investigating/confirming isolated hazards and mitigation, ski cutting, indicator runs, leadership decision making in final terrain selection, strategic technical downhill hazard mitigation, regrouping, terrain type use/avoidance (supported/unsupported/convex/shallow,anchored, etc.)
- Human Factors, Pace, Implementing and Changing Trip Plan
- Special clinic objective: Contending with Complex Terrain & *Considerable Hazard Rating. In other words dealing with complicated avalanche terrain when the snowpack is variable with isolated hazards.
*Note: We exercises are structured such that we are able to achieve the Considerable/Isolated hazard irrespective of the clinic day’s actual avalanche forecast danger rating and snow conditions.

Inherent additional skills as opportunity arises:

- Advanced Track Setting Skills: Efficient up-track, ideal terrain use, best spots to initiate turn, corners/kickturns, etc.
- Snowpack investigation: Hasty tests (hand sheers/ski cut/pole density, etc.), Advanced tests (Extended Column/Saw Propagation, etc.).
 - Other mountain hazards and mitigation

**Notice: MSAA pledges to always cover all of the critical skill sets. However, though rare, conditions or other constraints may cause for certain lessons to not be appropriate or safe to undertake. Be sure to address your instructor at the time if you have any concerns.”