

# US. BACKCOUNTRY SKI / BOARD TRIP



## THE TRIP

This trip is held in the Backcountry of Mt. Baker during mid-winter break in February. Lead by Martin Brakke (US Science), Catherine Klem (US Math), and The Baker Mountain Guides, students participate in two courses: AIARE Level 1, the first step in Avalanche awareness, assessment, and rescue; and Backcountry Pro 1, a 5-day field-based course focused on practical skills. The AIARE course will be completed over a January weekend. The BC Pro will occur during Mid-Winter Break. Participants will meet with our guides to discuss hazard assessment, snow conditions, weather, and tour plan for the day. We will utilize the vast Backcountry terrain near Mt. Baker resort. No lifts for us, we earn some of the best turns in North America on this trip as each day consists of 4000+ ft of human-powered vertical gain in "tour mode" and an equal amount of descent in "ski mode." Students will learn skills in outdoor leadership, decision making, team building, risk mitigation, and resource management. While never guaranteed, Baker generally promises to have deep and fluffy powder and a stable snowpack this time of year.



Mt. Baker Backcountry. For the BC Pro portion, Participants will stay in a cabin in the town of Glacier and transport together each day to the touring location. For the AIARE Level 1, students will travel from SAAS with leaders, returning each evening.

## INHERENT RISKS

Students and families should be aware that there are inherent risks associated with outdoor wilderness and international trips. Our goal is to assess and manage those risks where possible by creating a culture of safety with our staff and students through education, training and information dissemination. We will go over a number of trip associated risks with students both before and during the trip, but these lists may not be all inclusive. We ask that students and families be aware of potential risks associated with their trip choice prior to signing up for these trips and to continue through the trips entirety.



## QUESTIONS:

Martin Brakke ([mbrakke@seattleacademy.org](mailto:mbrakke@seattleacademy.org))  
Catherine Klem ([cklem@seattleacademy.org](mailto:cklem@seattleacademy.org))

# SAAS SEATTLE ACADEMY OUTDOORS

## BC PRO DATES:

BC PRO: Feb 21-25  
Mid-Winter Break

## AIARE LEVEL 1:

Choose **ONE**

1/20-23 **OR** 1/27-30

## COST: \$2950

**Financial Aid is available**

Cost does not cover:

- \*Med. Evac. insurance (~\$40)
- \*Rental Equipment (~\$275)

## Sign-up:

Please visit the Outdoor/Travel Program

## PARTICIPANTS:

Must be competent and comfortable skiing/boarding in all

## LEADERS:

Martin Brakke  
Catherine Klem  
Harvey Hinman  
Robert Dean  
Maggie Leuzzi

## TRIP INFO NIGHT:

Tuesday, 11/9

6pm over zoom