



Riding Out of Bounds— Getting Started

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Out of Bounds

- Big mountain riding is generally found out of bounds
- With avalanche deaths on the rise, you must learn before you go to
 - Navigate safely
 - Survive going beyond patrolled terrain



Know before you go

- Study snow reports
- Understand how weather affects snowpack
- Is it stable?
- Is there enough snow coverage?
- Good resource—
opensnow.com/forecasts
- Respect signs



Get Right Equipment

- Shovel
- Beacon
- Probe
- Snow Saw
- Rutshblock Cord
- Thermometers
- Slope Meter
- Snow evaluation magnifier
- Life-Link snow crystal card
- Weather band radio



Clothing

- Touring equipment
 - Helmet
 - Goggles / sun glasses (UV rated)
 - Crampons
 - Ice axe
- Outer Wear
 - Jacket
 - Pants
 - Gloves, mittens
 - Hat, balaclava, beanie
- Sensible inner layers
 - **No Cotton**
 - Long johns
 - Fleece glove liners
 - Wool socks



Essentials

- Ski backpack
- First aid kit
- Emergency blanket
- Hydration system
- Thermos for hot liquids
- Compact stove, pot, utensils / Sharp knife
- Waterproof Matches & candle & flashlight
- Duct Tape
- Webbing
- High energy food / snacks



Take a course

- Courses are generally a few days
 - Learn the basics in reading terrain and snowpack
 - Learn how to use the gear
 - Learn about assessing risk
- Gives you in the field & on hand training



Go with experience

- Find a mentor
- Tackle mellow terrain first
- Ask questions...
lots of questions
- Tag along with someone who knows what they are doing



Earn your turns

- Get in shape
 - A lot of time is spent hiking up the mountain
- Get your skiing legs
 - Tackle ungroomed slopes inbound



Resources

California

<http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/>

Colorado

[Colorado Avalanche Information Center](#)

Utah

<https://utahavalanchecenter.org/>

Montana

<http://www.mtavalanche.com/>

Oregon

<http://www.coavalanche.org/>

Washington/Oregon

<https://www.nwac.us/>

Wyoming

<http://www.jhavalanche.org/index.php>

Other

<http://snoinfo.com/>



Be Safe Out There Series!

Ski With Pride • Watch All Sides • Let It Ride—
First with Safety Awareness

PacificRimAlliance.org

fwsa.org



"The Voice of the Western Skier"



Use your brain, it's the most important part of your equipment.
~Kevin Andrews and Warren Miller, Extreme Skiing