



Intro to Guiding Program Overview

Overview

In Apex's Intro to Guiding Program, participants have the opportunity to be in the field up to 3-5 days per week under the guidance of Vail, Colorado's, number one recommended source for mountaineering.

The program was developed for people who are interested in breaking into the commercial mountain guiding industry. Our intention is to expose you to guiding experience in the field that you might not otherwise have access to, as well as guidance and mentorship with your own development process. Participants are responsible for putting in the effort to further themselves, and need to come into the program with adequate skills in order to not inhibit guides' process.

The Intro to Guiding Program is a paid program lasting 13 weeks in either the summer or winter season. Currently we only accept 1 participant per season.

To apply, you need to submit a resume.

Winter Dates:

Dec. 1- March 1

Summer Dates:

June 13 – September 9

(These dates may be modified upon request)

Cost

\$9,000

Cash or check and paid in full at the time of acceptance/enrollment.

Cost Includes:

- Enrollment in an American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) Single Pitch Instructor (SPI) course
- Enrollment in a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) full course
- Process Supervision by Apex Mountain School staff
- Guidance/Mentorship of:
 - Movement Skills Progression
 - Technical Skills Progression
 - Guiding Skills Progression
- Observing/Shadowing:

- Shadow our guides in the field on a daily/weekly basis. Areas of focus:
 - Professionalism
 - Timeliness
 - Presentation/Demeanor
 - Appearance/Grooming
 - Industry Language/Terminology
 - Client Relationship Boundaries
 - Adjusting into Client
 - Your Kit
 - LNT
 - Guide Preparatory/Planning Processes
 - Weather
 - Avalanche Conditions (Winter)
 - Client Intake
 - Route/Trip Planning and Options
 - Time Management
 - Communication Plan
 - Emergency Response Plan
 - Post-trip Processes
 - Client Orientation and Client Care
 - Client Goals/Aspirations
 - Attention to Client Behavior
 - Client Special Needs
 - Language/Verbiage
 - Tact and Proper Facilitation
 - Hazard/Risk Management
 - Environmental Awareness
 - Judgment and Decision Making Skills
 - Client Assessment and Pacing
 - Operational Liability
 - Emergency Response Plan
 - Terrain Assessment
 - Complex Terrain
 - Navigation Skills
 - Route Finding
 - Time Plan Management
 - Skills Application
 - Self-Awareness, Appropriate Application and Self-Assessment
 - Environmental Assessment
 - Error Correction
 - Mountain Sense
 - Tools in the Bag
 - Field Experience
 - Seamless Transitioning
 - Adaptation
 - Instructional Technique
 - Personality and Learning Types
 - Communication Styles

- Structure and Lesson Plans
- Efficiency
- Balance
- Winter Course Includes:
 - Shadow an American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) full Level 1 course
 - Shadow an American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) full Level 2 course
 - Shadow Ice Climbing course(s)
 - Shadow Backcountry Ski or Snowboard course(s)
- Summer Course includes:
 - Shadow Rock Climbing course(s)
 - Shadow “How to Lead Climb” course(s)
 - Shadow Rappelling course(s)

**Must be able to physically keep up with guided parties, as well as perform technical skills in a manner that does not endanger the safety of themselves or the party. Failure to adhere will result in decreased or removed field opportunities without reimbursement.*