

AWAALANCHIE THE GAME



Play & Live to Ride Another Day



Test your mountain travel skills in this epic game of adventure!



Copyright 2014 Alaska Avalanche Information Special recognition for creation and development of this program goes to Debra McGhan (AAIC) & Dr. DB Palmer, EdD., University of Alaska Prince William Sound Community College, students, AAIC forecasters as well as numerous other organizations and individuals.

The concept for this digital educational game was presented by Debra McGhan in cooperation with the Alaska Avalanche Information Center (AAIC) and Dr. DB Palmer, EdD University of Alaska, Prince William Sound College. All images and content are protected by copyright. The Alaska Avalanche Information Center is providing information and services in furtherance of its non-profit and tax-exempt status. Permission to use, copy and distribute documents delivered from this manual and related graphics is hereby granted for private, non-commercial and education purposes only, provided that the above copyright notice appears with the following notice: This document may be reprinted and distributed for non-commercial and educational purposes only, and not for resale. No resale use may be made of material from this manual at any time without prior written permission. All other rights reserved.

The scenarios and challenges in this game are based on true situations and real-life case studies. This game is in memory of these victims who lost their lives as a result of avalanches. They paid the ultimate price for their lessons. May the cost be for not but help others.

Special recognition for concept and early development: Merletta Morris (curriculum and activity specialist) and Tim McDaniel (gamer.)

Cover art: *Avalanche Logo, Michelle Winsor, Gograph.com stock images, Ocal images.*



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At the end of the game, please complete the assessment form and submit for a chance to win an Ortovox Beacon, Shovel & Probe or other sponsor donated prizes.







ATHLET: Michi Sieber, Gofe Möst PHOTO: Leonhard Habersitzer

**3+
BE FOUND BETTER**

The Smart-Antenna-Technology analyzes the position of the transceiver in an avalanche and switches automatically to the best transmission antenna. There is no longer a "worst position".



OFFIZIELLER AUSSTATTER



Best Buy





THE GAME AVALANCHE

Welcome to the game that teaches you how to
'Live to Ride Another Day!'

This is your lift ticket to fun and staying alive in the backcountry! Select your activity, location, tools, partners, and route then complete challenges to earn points. But watch out; the avalanches are out to get you. Only by using good back country protocols and safe decision making skills will you WIN and have the chance to progress to the next level.

Earn bonus points for game strategy, tools, route and partner selection, terrain management and rescue skills. Remember, luck favors the prepared. Let's get started!



Photo: US Forest Service





SPONSOR AND SUPPORTERS RECOGNITION



WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES MODE SELECT

FREESTYLE

You're ready to just grab your equipment and head out to the mountains. You can figure out where you want to go once you get out there.



INFORMATION STATION

New to mountain travel and want some advice? Head for the Avalanche Information Center for instructions before heading out.



CHALLENGE

Choose one of four level challenges to test and practice your backcountry skills. From Novice to Mountain Guide, evaluate terrain and conditions to determine the best route and travel protocols. Navigate the obstacles to earn points and prove you have what it takes to avoid the AVALANCHES and be the Ultimate Mountain Guide!



REPORTING STATION

Log your adventure and provide a written report on your experience to be entered to win sponsor donated prizes!



HOW MANY ARE TRAVELING TODAY?

SET NUMBER OF TRAVELERS

Choose the number of players who will be traveling in your group.



PACK YOUR GEAR

What gear should you be taking with you on your adventure today? Head to the gear shack and pack the supplies you think you'll need.



GET A FORECAST

You can skip this step but beware, there may be dangers lurking in the snowpack that will catch you unprepared.



CHOOSE YOUR TERRAIN

Select the state for your adventure and head out!



Earn bonus points for game strategy, tools, route and partner selection, terrain management and rescue skills. Remember, luck favors the prepared. Let's get started!

CHOOSE YOUR SKILL LEVEL

- ☐ **Level 1** - I don't know much about avalanches and don't own my own beacon, shovel or probe.
- ☐ **Level 2** - I travel and play in the backcountry occasionally. I own my own beacon, shovel and probe but don't really play or practice with my gear much. I have never attended an American Avalanche Association (AAA) approved avalanche training course. (3-day minimum)
- ☐ **Level 3** – I travel, play or work in the backcountry frequently. I own my own gear and practice and train at least annually. I have completed at least a Level 1 AAA approved course.
- ☐ **Level 4** - I'm an expert and train extensively participating in multi-day treks in the backcountry. I work as a professional in the outdoors and consider myself knowledgeable and prepared to conduct rescue if the need arises. I have completed at least a Level 2 AAA approved course.



CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY

☐ HIKING / SNOWSHOING	☐ CLIMBING
☐ SLEDDING	☐ SKIING
☐ SNOWBOARDING	☐ SNOWMOBILING
☐ DOG MUSHING	☐ OTHER MECHANIZED (SNOWCAT, AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTER...)

READY FOR ADVENTURE!

Select from the following options:

- ☐ You and your friends are going on a three-day mountaineering trip to the Wrangell Mountains in Alaska.
- ☐ You and a friend are going to Wolf Creek Pass in Colorado for a day of backcountry skiing.
- ☐ You and a group of friends are going snowmobiling for the weekend to Copper Creek Bowl northeast of Lincoln, WY.
- ☐ You and four friends are planning a day of backcountry snowboarding near Loveland Pass, Colorado
- ☐ You and a climbing partner plan to climb Mount Shuksan in Washington and then ski down.
- ☐ You and a group of three friends are going snowmobiling to Frenchman Creek in Idaho for the weekend.
- ☐ You and two friends are going snowboarding for the day in Hatcher Pass, Alaska.
- ☐ You and three friends are going snowboarding in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah for the day.
- ☐ You and a friend are going snowshoeing for the afternoon near Eagle River, Alaska
- ☐ You are going out on your own to ride your snowmobile for a couple of hours near LaPine, Oregon
- ☐ You and a friend are thrilled to finally fulfill a lifelong dream of helicopter skiing in Alaska for five days.
- ☐ You and two friends are going backcountry skiing near Lake Tahoe, California for the day.
- ☐ You need a solo hike to clear your head. You set out from Salt Lake City, UT
- ☐ You and a friend are going snowmobiling near Moab, Utah for a few hours.



CHOOSE YOUR AVATAR

CLIMBER/ HIKER



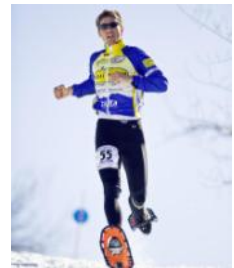
SKIER



SNOWBOARDER



SNOWSHOEING



SNOWMOBILE RIDER



MUSHING



CHOOSE YOUR PARTNER: 25 points possible

- ☐ A-Alex - A close friend with little or no experience. Willing to learn and follow instructions.
- ☐ B-Billy - A friend that is always fun to have around but knows little about the mountains. Not a great follower.
- ☐ C-Carol - A friend that has free time and is always up for any kind of new adventure. Has experience but no formal training. Strong personality and knows a lot about a lot of things. Just ask (her/him.) Doesn't like to follow.
- ☐ D-Dakota - A close friend that is your usual backcountry partner. They know you and work well on a team. They have their own equipment and generally come prepared.
- ☐ E-Eeryn - An experienced back country traveler with equipment, training and time to explore new terrain. This will be your first adventure together.
- ☐ F-Fergie - An experienced backcountry traveler with equipment, training but very limited time. This will have to be a fast adventure. Also first time partner.
- ☐ G-Gale - An experienced backcountry traveler with equipment, training but an arrogant attitude. In an emergency, this partner will know exactly what to do and will take charge. You have limited experience with this partner.
- ☐ NO THANKS! I'm looking for a solitary experience.



Photo: John Fulbright

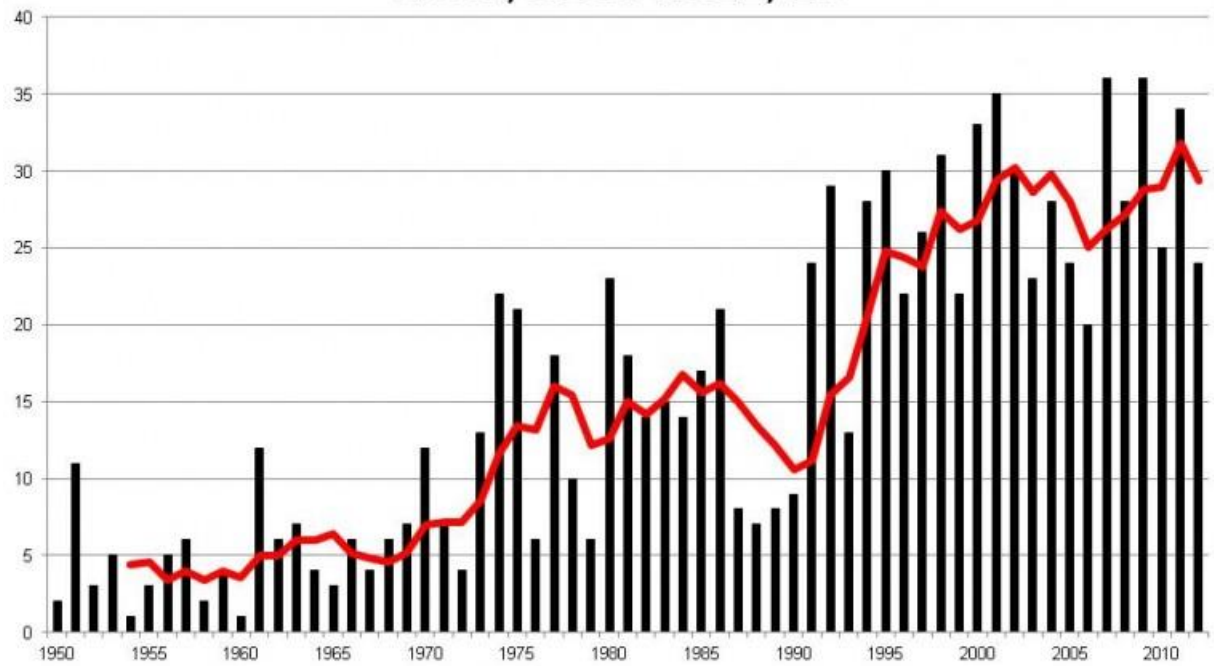
CHOOSE YOUR TERRAIN
Based on your selected scenario

- ❑ Alaska - Anchorage, Cordova, Haines, Hatcher Pass, Juneau, Turnagain Pass, Thompson Pass, Valdez...
- ❑ California - Alpine Meadows, Donner Ski Ranch...
- ❑ Colorado - Pitkin, Clear Creek, Gunnison, Ouray, Eagle, Chafee, Lake Grand, San Juan, San Miguel, Vail, La Plata, Silverton, Wolf Creek...
- ❑ Idaho - Bald Mountain, Big Creek, Boardman's Pass, Preston, Swan Valley...
- ❑ Montana - Anaconda, Troy, Altoona Lakes, Cooke City, Portal Creek, Missoula...
- ❑ Oregon - Crater Lake, LaPine, Wallowa Mountains...
- ❑ New Hampshire - Mount Washington, Tuckerman Ravine...
- ❑ Nevada - Lee Canyon, Cape Mercy, East of Mt. Rose...
- ❑ Utah - Big Cottonwood Canyon, Logan, Sanpete County, Wasatch, Uinta...
- ❑ Washington - Snoqualmie Pass, North Cascades National Park, Cascade Mountain, Stevens Pass...
- ❑ Wyoming - Grand Teton, Togwotee Pass, Jackson...

NOTE: THESE LOCATIONS HAVE HAD RECORDED AVALANCHE FATALITIES



US Fatalities by Season 1950/51 to 2012/13



**Colorado Avalanche
Information Center**



Photo John Fulbright





Barbara Kronquist, Alaska



Photo by Seth Hildebrand



SELECT YOUR GEAR – (125 points possible)

Tools	Travel Preferences
☐ Alpine skis + poles ☐ Climbing cleats + ice axe ☐ Sled ☐ Nordic skis with skins ☐ Snowboard ☐ Snowshoes ☐ Snowmobile	☐ Human powered ☐ Dog powered ☐ Mechanized access ☐ Snowmobile ☐ Snowcat ☐ Airplane ☐ Helicopter

EMERGENCY GEAR – *Select only items you generally bring on your real life adventures. (130 points possible)*

☐ Beacon, Shovel, Probe ☐ Snow Saw ☐ Sleeping bag or Bivy bag ☐ Emergency blanket ☐ Snowshoes ☐ Come-a-long/Tow Rope ☐ Extra clothing (layers, softshell, hard shell, boots, gloves, socks, face mask) ☐ Headlamp with extra batteries ☐ Cell Phone ☐ Satellite Phone ☐ Map and Compass (GPS) ☐ Package of Jell-O	☐ Fire Starter ☐ Survival Kit ☐ First Aid Kit ☐ Ice Pick/axe ☐ Ice Screws ☐ Airbag ☐ Avalung ☐ Spare parts & tools ☐ Hand warmers ☐ Thermos w/hot h2o ☐ Food ☐ Drinking water ☐ Other? _____
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RESOURCES – Select only items you would likely have with you for your chosen adventure. (40 pts. possible)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Hat☐ Neck gator☐ Gloves☐ Jacket☐ Snowpants☐ Layers (e.g. silks, thermal, weather)☐ Boots☐ Backpack☐ Sunglasses | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Goggles☐ Cell Phone☐ Helmet☐ Water☐ Food☐ Extra clothing☐ Sunscreen☐ Candle☐ Duck tape |
|---|---|

TERRAIN MANAGEMENT (1,200 pts. Possible)

Pick the right route to win

- ☐ Travel in groups up the easiest way
- ☐ Travel one at a time with partners waiting at safe zones watching
- ☐ Take the ridges to high points
- ☐ Stay in the bottom of dips or gullies
- ☐ If you are on a river or creek bed you are safe and don't need to watch for avalanches
- ☐ Travel between safe zones which could include rocks, trees, ridges...
- ☐ Follow snowmobile tracks
- ☐ Follow obvious trails
- ☐ Travel wide open bowls
- ☐ Travel at the base of large steep areas
- ☐ Wait for your friends at the base of the mountain to watch them high mark
- ☐ Cross above your friends on open bowls



Avoid terrain traps – Select all that you think could be a trap (110 pts.)

- ☐ Dips
- ☐ Gullies
- ☐ Cornices
- ☐ Ridges
- ☐ Hips
- ☐ Peaks
- ☐ Valleys
- ☐ River bed's that pass through canyons
- ☐ Steep cliffs that end in a flat meadow
- ☐ Convex slopes
- ☐ Concave slopes)

WEATHER AND SNOW FORECAST (255 pts. Possible)

Before you head out for adventure, do you always call or check online for weather & snowpack conditions? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Select all of the following that apply. I get my information from the following sources...

- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Television
- ☐ NWS
- ☐ NOAA
- ☐ Local Avalanche Forecast Center
- ☐ Online
- ☐ Call A Friend
- ☐ Look out the window
- ☐ Just going for the day so don't bother with the forecast



TRIP PLAN

Before you head out for your adventure, if you think it's a good idea, tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. If you change your plan, will you contact this person to tell them?

Who will you leave this plan with? _____

How many in your party? _____

How many days do you plan to be out? _____

Do you have Food and Water? _____

Do you have emergency supplies? _____

What is your mode of travel? _____

Describe clothing, sled type/color, backpack color...etc. in the event someone needs to locate you.

Does anyone in your group have medical training? If so, what level? _____

Route of travel? Where are you going?

NAME: _____ Date: _____

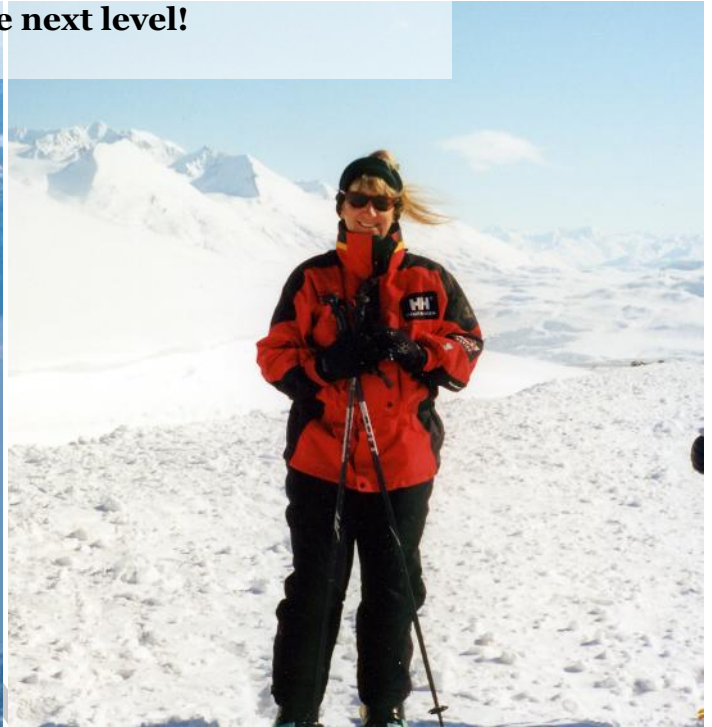
During your real-life adventures, do you generally leave a trip plan with a relative or trusted friend?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ SOMETIMES



LET'S GO!

Complete tasks and challenges to unlock rewards and progress to the next level!



Photos: H2O Guides, Debra McGhan, NAOI



Score sheet

Your Score will be automatically tallied
based on your responses

GAME CATEGORY	YOUR SCORE	TOTAL POSSIBLE
Partner		25
Location		100
Gear/Resources/ emergency supplies		295
Terrain Management		1200
Weather & Snow Conditions		255
Bonus - Post an observation		100
Trip Plan		100
Travel responses during adventure		3000
Bonus - Feedback comments		100
Total treasures unlocked		500
Highest score possible		5675

TO EARN THE EXTRA 100 BONUS POINTS

POST AN OBSERVATION

WRITE THE STEPS TO POST ON YOUR LOCAL FORECAST CENTER

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____





Date: _____

Thank you for participating in this AAIC / UA-PWSCC educational research project. *Avalanche! The Game* is designed to help you 'Live To Ride Another Day.' This is a prototype educational gaming tool and we need your help to achieve proof of concept. Complete the following feedback form and be entered to win an avalanche beacon, shovel & probe donated by Ortovox. Thanks again for playing!



(1 = did not and 5= exceeded expectations)

Did this gaming experience meet your expectations? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Was the information/instructions presented clearly? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

What did you like best?

Did you learn anything new? If so what?

Do you think you will travel the mountains differently as a result of this gaming experience?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, give example(s):

Suggestions for improvement?

How likely are you to recommend this game to others? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Other Comments

Preferred gaming platform? (e.g.: computer, i-phone, Play Station...?) _____

Would you like an invitation to participate in a long-range research project? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please tell us how you learned about this project? _____

Age

Grade/Occupation

Rider Type

Experience Level

Optional (To be entered in the drawing you must provide a valid email address.)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Email: info@alaskasnow.org; USPS: AAIC – PO Box 911, Valdez, AK 99686; FAX: 907-357-0332



TITLE SPONSOR FEATURED HERE

