**Course Description:**

The AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Program is designed to enable climbing instructors to 'proficiently facilitate and instruct the sport of rock climbing in a single pitch setting'. The program is for current, active rock climbers that have a real desire to teach the rock climbing to novices in a single pitch setting. Candidates should be passionate rock climbers that have their own equipment, regularly climb and have been rock climbing outdoors for at least 12 months.

The SPI Course is not a 'climbing' course it is an instructor training course for current, proficient and active rock climbers and for climbing instructors who currently teach rock climbing that wish to gain the SPI Certification. The course teaches many instructor specific topics such as professionalism, teaching techniques, risk management, group site organization, climbing site conservation/LNT and assistance/rescue skills. Certification lasts for three years as long as the candidate keeps current AMGA Membership and First Aid Certification. After three years current SPI's can re-take the SPI Assessment or take any higher level AMGA Program to re-gain the SPI certification.

**SPI Terrain Guidelines**

The SPI will be able to proficiently facilitate and instruct the sport of rock climbing in a single pitch setting. Single Pitch Instructors supervise and teach climbing at any single pitch cliff, working at the base or from the top. They can work at sites where the anchors are accessed by non-technical terrain and also by leading. For the purpose of the SPI Program a single pitch climb is one which:

- Is climbed without intermediate belays
- Presents no difficulties on approach or retreat, such as route finding, scrambling or navigating
- The SPI Program does not cover multipitch guiding. These skills are taught in the AMGA Rock Instructor Course. SPI's that guide clients in multipitch terrain would be guiding outside of their terrain guidelines.

**SPI Course Overview:**

Day 1

- Session 1: SPI and AMGA Program Overview
- Session 2: Professionalism
- Session 3: Equipment
- Session 4: Knots and Hitches
- Session 5: Belaying
- Session 6: Protection and Anchoring
- Session 7: Teaching
- End-of-Day Debriefs
Day 2

- Session 8: The Climbing Site
- Session 9: Site Organization and Group Management
- Session 10: Base-Managed Sites
- Session 11: Assistance Skills: Base-Managed Sites
- Session 12: Programming and Risk Management
- End-of-Day Debriefs

Day 3

- Session 13: Instructor Demo Lead Climb
- Session 14: Top-Managed Sites
- Session 15: Lowering
- Session 16: Assistance Skills: Top-Managed Sites
- Session 17: Rappelling
- Session 18: Climbing Movement
- Session 19: Review Sessions
- Final Individual and Group Debriefs

**SPI Assessment Overview:**

Day 1

- Session 1: SPI Assessment Orientation
- Session 2: Lead Climbing and Top Rope Session
- Session 3: Technical Components
- Session 4: Debriefs

Day 2

- Session 1: Teaching Components
- Session 2: Group Management
- Session 3: Debriefs

**Course Length:**

3 Days; 27 hours and a separate 2 Day 16 hour Assessment

**Who Should Take This Course:**

University Professors that teach climbing, Climbing Instructors, Scout Leaders, Summer Camp Professionals or climbers that wish to achieve additional training, experience and certification to gain employment as a Climbing Instructor in the Outdoor Industry.

**Course Prerequisites:**

You meet the pre-requisites for the SPI course if you:

- Have a genuine interest in rock climbing and instructing novices on single pitch crags.
• Are at least 18 years old at the time of the course. Have at least 12 months prior climbing experience.
• Are an active climber with traditional lead climbing experience (leader placing pro).
• Have trad lead climbed a minimum of 15 graded rock climbing routes (any grade).
• Are capable of comfortably climbing 5.8 while on a top rope.

The above pre-requisites are absolute minimums and most candidates have way in excess of the above. Without having at least this amount experience you are unlikely to play a constructive part on the course or be able to make best use of the training. If you are unsure of your skill levels we suggest hiring an AMGA/IFMGA certified guide to evaluate and enhance your skills and experience prior to SPI Program enrollment.

Assessment Prerequisites:

• You have successfully completed an AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Course, AMGA Top Rope Site Manager Course or AMGA Rock Instructor Course at any time in the past.
• You have trad lead climbed a minimum of 40 graded rock climbing routes. A large number of these should be at 5.6 grade and hopefully on a variety of rock types.
• You are capable of comfortably lead climbing 5.6 traditional routes (leader placing protection). You will demonstrate your leading ability on a variety of routes on the assessment.
• You are capable of comfortably climbing 5.8 while on a top rope.

To gain the AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Certification you must complete the three day AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Course and separate two day Single Pitch Instructor Assessment.

Certifications Received:

American Mountain Guides Association, Single Pitch Instructor.

• Certification and AMGA Membership lasts for three years. After three years, current SPI’s can re-take the assessment or take a higher level AMGA course to retain the SPI certification.

How To Register:

Step 1: Join the AMGA (or log-in to your existing account)

• Membership must be at the Professional Membership level.

Step 2: Apply to Your Course or Assessment

• Sign in to your my AMGA account.
• Click the “Apply for a Program” tab.
• Select the discipline and course type you are applying to.
• Select the specific program you are applying to and click "apply."
• Confirm your prerequisites.
• Please contact the Program Provider directly if you have questions regarding the course selected. The program provider will contact you with further instruction.

Please note that joining the AMGA and applying for a course does not automatically enroll you for a course. You must also meet the prerequisites for the program and be approved to enroll by the program provider. Your acceptance into the program is at the sole discretion of the program provider.
Have Additional Questions:

For more information contact Andrew Borak, the Assistant Director of Outdoor Programs at:

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- 540-831-6012