



WILDLIFE SURVIVAL, SEARCH, AND RESCUE COURSE

A. INTRODUCTION

SIWA (Survival Instructors World Association) is an institution comprised of specialists in technical and tactical wilderness and urban survival in the fields of mountaineering, climbing, canyoning, caving, pre-hospital care, tactical medicine, wilderness rescue, vertical rescue, confined space rescue, aquatic rescue, underwater rescue, collapsed structure rescue, canine rescue, cave rescue, helicopter operations, and vertical and high-altitude work, with years of experience in the public and private sectors.

The fundamental principle of this course is technical training, with the aim of reducing risks in adventure activities for people involved in vertical and wilderness environments, whether for tourism, sports, work, or professional purposes. This Corps was created with the purpose of providing andragogical knowledge in the professional or sports environment to all those seeking success and professional development, guided by experienced personnel.

B. INTRODUCTION

The foundation of every survivor, first responder, or practitioner is to remain in constant training and be prepared to assist in an emergency. Activities that involve risk, such as mountain climbing, canopy tours, adventure trails, etc., have in many cases resulted in some type of accident, requiring the use of rope rescue and salvage techniques.

For this reason, specific training and education in the area of survival and rope rescue is necessary, and this should be a topic of special attention, mainly due to the numerous unsafe practices carried out by many amateur, professional, or volunteer groups that respond to emergencies.

The present syllabus is adaptable to the conditions required by the rugged terrain of your country and is constantly reviewed by SIWA in accordance with demanding protocols and quality standards.

- European school techniques vs. American school techniques
- International standards and recommendations
- Required training level for a rescue team
- Available equipment
- The reality of rope rescue and salvage
- Experience as a sport, rescue, and instruction

C. METHODOLOGY

The course uses Experiential Learning as a powerful methodology aimed at the training and transformation of individuals based on their own individuality, their skills, their leadership, and their decision-making capacity in emergency situations far from urban areas. A theoretical-practical methodology, where simulated risk scenarios and situations are recreated, as well as from a synergistic and systemic point of view, in the interrelation with other individuals, in harmonious coexistence, in effective communication, in the formation of high-performance work teams, as well as the strengthening of their values and their own culture, allowing for meaningful learning through the socialization of the experience and the guidance of a Facilitator of the process.

The activities that are structured and executed should lead the participants to an adequate reflection and internalization of the experience so that, through the acquired processing, they can remain calm during an emergency because they will know how to manage an emergency situation, make decisions, and adopt the appropriate steps to resolve it and carry out appropriate survival, search, and rescue techniques in rugged terrain. With the guidance of our instructors, we offer a practical and challenging program, demanding yet fun, wonderful and engaging for you and your skills. Participate in this amazing process to acquire knowledge and develop skills through simulation methodology. Prepare yourself and seize a real opportunity to be the most important link in the chain of survival, saving lives, reducing suffering, preventing injuries from worsening, improving a patient's condition during treatment, and making the difference between life and death for anyone on your adventure team, friends, or clients.

D. COURSE ENDORSEMENTS

The WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE course has the endorsements and institutional sponsorship of: Survival Instructors World Association (SIWA) This institution aims to provide systematic pedagogical/andragogical guidance to all those seeking professional development, enriching their knowledge, and gaining unforgettable experiences.

E. ACADEMIC HOURS
50 hours (theoretical and practical)

F. PROGRAM

Day 1

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Start time: 9:00 am
 2. End time: 4:00 pm
- 1) Course presentation

2) Course methodology and evaluation

3) Safety measures within the course

2. THEORETICAL-TECHNICAL AREA

1) Basic Definitions

2) Incident Command System applied to Rope Rescue

3) Operational Safety

a) Scene assessment and risk analysis

b) Rescuer profile

c) Formation of rescue teams

d) Self-assessment

e) Case studies

4) Recommendations before, during, and after operations

5) National and international standards and regulations

a) NFPA training levels and regulations

b) UIAA Recommendations

c) European Standards

d) Colombian Technical Standard for Working at Heights

e) Standards Applicable to the Sports Sector in Colombia

6) Work Areas and Differences

a) Sports

b) Tactical

c) Scientific

d) Industrial

e) Technical Rescue

7) Equipment

a) Helmet

b) Harness

c) Carabiners

d) Ropes

- e) Cords
- f) Anchor Line
- g) Sliders
- h) Rope Adjustment Devices (Fall Arresters, Ascenders, Descenders)
- i) Ascenders
- j) Pulleys
- k) Distribution Plates
- l) Anchor Plates
- m) Rope Protectors
- n) Accessories
- o) Backpacks
- p) New Equipment Technology
- q) Practical Exercises
- 8) PPE Inventory and Inspection
- 9) Fall Factor and Impact Force
- 10) Harness Syndrome
- 11) Search Patterns in Remote Areas
- 12) Principles of Care and Rescue in Wilderness Areas
- 13) Land Navigation: Basic Fundamentals

Day 2

Start time: 8:00 am

End time: 4:00 pm

3. PRACTICAL AREA

- 1) Evaluation
- 2) Knots
 - a) Terminology
 - b) Characteristics and strength
 - c) Basic Knots
 - Overhand

- Fisherman's Knot

- Figure Eight

- Figure Nine

d) Anchoring Knots

- Double Figure Eight with one loop

- Double Figure Eight with two loops

- Double Figure Eight with three loops

- Double Figure Eight with one loop (woven)

- Double Figure Eight with two loops (woven)

- Double Figure Eight with one loop per end

- Double Figure Nine with one loop

- Fisherman's Knot with one loop

e) Rope Joining Knots

- Double Figure Eight per end for rope joining

- Double Fisherman's Knot

f) Self-Locking Knots

- Prusik

- Machard

- Valdostano

- Purcell Prusik

g) Knots for Belaying and Special Functions

- Figure Eight

- Clove Hitch

- Lark's Head

- Bowline

- Locking Hitch

- Weaver

- Sheepshank

h) International Recommendations

i) Methods for Folding and Throwing Ropes

j) Practical Exercises

3) Anchors

a) Characteristics

b) Artificial Anchors

c) Natural Anchors

d) Static Anchors

e) Mobile Anchors

f) Redundancy

g) Practical Exercises

4) Systems

a) Handrails

b) Protection of Obstacles and Edges

c) Setting Up Fixed Systems

d) Setting Up Dynamic Systems

e) Belay

5) Horizontal Progression on Ropes

6) Land Navigation, Basic Fundamentals

Day 3

Start Time: 8:00 am

End time: 4:00 pm

3. PRACTICAL AREA

1) Evaluation

2) Controlled Weight Descent

3) Vertical Descent by Ropes (Rappelling)

a) Use of Sliders

b) Rope Access Techniques

c) Mid-Line Blocks

d) Knot Passing

4) Vertical Ascent by Ropes

- a) Technique with Cords
- b) Sport Techniques
- c) Rope Access Techniques
- d) Knot Passing

5) Pulley Systems

- a) Simple
- b) Compound

6) Descent and Recovery Systems with Conscious Patients

- a) Exercises
- b) Case Studies

Day 4

7) Land Navigation, Basic Fundamentals

Start Time: 8:00 am

End Time: 4:00 pm

3. PRACTICAL AREA

- 1) Evaluation
- 2) Rescue Baskets
 - a) Packing and securing
 - b) Descent and ascent with baskets in horizontal position
 - c) Descent and ascent with baskets in vertical position
- 3) Basket balancing systems
- 4) Zip line systems
- 5) Improvised stretchers
- 6) Basic land navigation

DAY 5

Start time: 8:00 am

End time: 4:00 pm

1. SURVIVAL THEORETICAL – TECHNICAL AREA There are several factors that will endanger life, such as hypothermia, lack of water, starvation, panic, the hostile environment, the accident or catastrophe itself, etc. One of them or a combination of several will endanger our existence and that of the people who accompany us, and to avoid it we must:

- Be aware of the situation and assess the risks that affect us immediately.
- Make decisions to mitigate the situation, provide ourselves with resources, and manage them.
- Act until the situation is resolved (arrival of external help, remedying it by our own means, etc.).

1 - Skill 1. Emergency Management and Logistics

- a) Role Assumption
- b) Security Rings
- c) Operational Discipline and Leadership

2 - Skill 2. First Aid & Stop the Bleed

- a) Natural Medicine
- b) Tactical Medicine

3 - Skill 3. Water

- a) Technical Procedures for Water Purification

4 - Skill 4. Fire. Generating Light & Heat for Survival

- a) Procedures
- b) Types of Campfires (Tactical Selection)

5 - Skill 5. Shelter

- a) Strategic location
- b) Building the mobile bivouac
- c) Defensive structures and fortifications of the stationary camp against extreme climates and ecosystems.

DAY 6

Start Time: 8:00 am

End Time: 4:00 pm

2. SURVIVAL THEORETICAL-TECHNICAL AREA

6 - Skill 6. Nutrition. Staying Healthy and Nourished to Survive.

Concealment of Clues.

- a) Rationing
- b) Basic Trapping & Improvised Fishing
- c) Universal Edibility Test

Skill 7. Orientation

- a) Improvised Orientation
- b) Positioning
- c) Astronomy by Dead Reckoning and Clues
- d) Progression and Maneuvering

8 - Skill 8. Aquatic Survival

- a) Salvage & Rescue (Rescue Swimmer)
- b) Diving
- c) Submersion
- d) Defensive swimming
- e) Apnea techniques

Day 7

Start time: 5:00 am

End time: 4:00 pm

3. FINAL EVALUATIONS

- 1) Individual practical exercises
- 2) Group practical exercises

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE COURSE

- 1. 2 Rescue baskets
- 2. 2 SKED-type baskets
- 3. 1 Practice dummy
- 4. 2 Full-length spinal splints
- 5. 2 Cervical collars
- 6. 10 Tubular webbing straps of various lengths, longer than 3 m

7. 10 Sewn webbing straps of 1.5 m
8. 20 Steel carabiners
9. 30 Aluminum carabiners
10. 10 Simple pulleys
11. 8 Tandem pulleys
12. 4 Rescue figure-eight descenders
13. 6 Self-locking descenders (Rig, Stop, ID, Sparrow, D4, etc.) 14. 6 Jumar-type ascenders
15. 4 Gibbs/Rescucender-type rope ascenders
16. 6 Anchor distribution plates
17. 6 Rescue helmets + various helmets for display
18. 6 Full-body rescue harnesses + various harnesses for display
19. 6 caving slings
20. 10 3m x 7mm cords
21. 6 50m or longer x 10mm dynamic ropes
22. 8 50m or longer x 11mm semi-static ropes
23. 8 Semi-static ropes of various lengths (10-30 meters)
24. 8 Rope protectors
25. Bags or backpacks for carrying equipment
26. 1 roll of emergency tape
27. Office supplies (folder, notebook, pens, pencils, scoreboards).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be requested from each participant:

1. Appropriate clothing
2. Boots or suitable footwear
3. Full-body and climbing harness
4. Helmet
5. Gloves
6. 6 carabiners
7. 1 single pulley

8. 2 x 2m x 7mm cords
9. 2 x 3m x 7mm cords
10. 1 Jumar/Ascent + foot loop
11. 1 sewn sling
12. 1 caving sling / 3m of dynamic rope for anchor line
13. 1 rescue figure-eight descender
14. 1 self-locking descender
15. 1 whistle
16. 1 pair of safety glasses
17. 1 personal first-aid kit
18. 1 small notebook and pen
19. 1 Camelbak or hydration bottle
20. Sleeping bag Required for the course:

- 1 Instructor for every 8 participants
- 1 Support Staff Member
- 1 Logistics Person
- 1 Person for Photography and Videography

G. TRAINING LOCATION

a. The training will take place at:

1. Low and medium mountain terrain phase: -----

TRAINING CENTER facilities -----

2. Rescue phase at: -----

b. With prior coordination with the institutions, the instructor staff, along with materials and equipment,

can be deployed to any part of the country or other countries that require one of the courses offered by our organizations, taking into consideration that they must have locations in accordance with the course program.

c. With prior coordination with the institution, the course can be held in a chosen wilderness area, -----, or a wildlife reserve, and conducted in a camping format.

Transportation, camping, and food costs are the responsibility of the institution requesting the training.

- d. The facilities at ----- have all the basic services for your comfort during the days of your training.
- e. The facilities offer camping accommodation (optional) and meal expenses cover the cost of the training.
- f. Those who wish to stay outside the training location can do so in the city of --- ----, ---- minutes from the training area.
- g. Transportation to the locations of the application phases is the responsibility of the participants, after prior coordination with the instructor staff.
- h. On the first day of the course, on [date] of May 2026, all personnel will meet at [location] at [time] to travel to the training area.

The course fee includes: - Training - Endorsements - Double Certificate of Course Completion - Course Patch and Jockey - Coffee Break - Lunch for 5 days - Buffering - Bivouac Area for Camping (optional) - Individual and Group Equipment for Training

CONTACTS (Technical Information about the Course)

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