



Tim Kneeland, Owner of Survival Educators

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History and Experience

In 1965, after growing up in Shelton, WA., Tim joined the United State Air Force, where he became a Survival Instructor (known as a SERE Specialist – [Survival, Evasion, Resistance & Escape](#)), serving in Reno, Spokane and his last 15 months at Clark AB in the Philippines with time in Vietnam. Tim was chosen as Airman of the Quarter while at Fairchild AFB and was selected to attend the prestigious Academic Instructor Course at the USAF Air University in Montgomery, AL.

After leaving the Air Force in 1969, Tim eventually founded and directed the Institute for Survival Education (ISE) in Seattle, WA. and later in Minneapolis, MN., where he attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota. In 1972, Tim also co-founded Safety Survival Rescue Equipment Company (SSRE) to design and sell survival and medical kits. SSRE later became Safety Developmental Industries. In 1980, ISE rebranded as Tim Kneeland & Associates, Inc. (TK&A) to better reflect changing business opportunities. In addition to survival and outdoor recreation education, TK&A also produced cross-country skiing, canoeing, hiking and bicycling adventures, often benefiting various charities. Beginning in 1981, Tim served for nine years as the National Trek Consultant for the American Lung Association, headquartered in New York City. From 1983 to 2003, bicycle touring became the primary focus for TK&A, creating and producing dozens of one-day, weeklong and cross-country events, plus two around-the-world cycling tours. Odyssey 2000, Tim's largest world tour, took 250 cyclists through 43 countries on six continents from Jan 1, 2000, to Jan 1, 2001, starting and finishing in Pasadena's Tournament of Roses Parade.

In 2004, Tim created Survival Educators to again focus more time and resources to teaching survival and self-reliance skills to government, military, and general audiences. In 2004, Tim also joined [Emergency Response International, Inc.](#) (ERI's) small team of instructors and consultants as a contractor to deliver survival programs to [Customs and Border Protection's Office of Air and Marine](#) - pilots, aircrews and marine officers - and [USCG's Aviation Survival Technicians \(Rescue Swimmers\)](#). In 2008, he joined and continues to be a contractor with [CAPS Aviation](#) (Corporate Air Parts) in Van Nuys, CA teaching [FAR 135.331](#) Crewmember Emergency Training courses. To date, Tim has taught nearly 600 courses to over 5300 pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, security professionals, and frequent travelers. Beginning in 2013, Tim also began teaching first responders and [Community Emergency Response Team](#) (CERT) members outdoor survival skills, focusing on surviving unexpected disasters and emergencies. In 2016, Tim became a Board Member of the Los Angeles based [Business & Industry Council for Emergency Planning & Preparedness](#) (BICEPP), receiving their Award of Excellence and later the President's Award. As a certified American Heart Association instructor, he has also taught over 225 American Heart Association First Aid, CPR and AED courses to aviators. One of his proudest accomplishments is the release of CAPS' [135.331 Crewmember Emergency Online Training](#) course.

