



INVITATION

RE: Denali / Mt. McKinley (One of the 7 Summits)

FR: Jeff Reynolds, Expedition Director

1. **Objective.** Denali via the via the West Buttress (20,320ft.).
2. **Dates.** To be determined by Members (Projecting May – July / 30 day itinerary)
3. **Concept.** This is a non-profit expedition being planned by experienced climbers who think mountaineering should be about a great experience rather than a profit margin. Long before climbing turned into a commercial franchise, climbers who preceded us came together and shared their dreams and passion for the mountains. They would discuss an objective, develop a plan and go with it. We think there should be an alternative to the commercial expedition - that's why we're returning to tradition with S² Mountaineering. S² Mountaineering has organized successful expeditions to many of the world's highest peaks in five continents without incident.

By organizing a non-profit climb, we have reduced the cost of the expedition to each member without compromising safety, thorough planning, group management and execution.

4. **Cost.** Based on the logistics and projected cost of this expedition is **\$2,750.00** per person. A team size of four or more is required. The cost includes round-trip ground and air transportation from Anchorage/Talkeetna to Kahiltna base camp, group climbing and cooking gear and administrative service. Items not included in the cost are your airfare to Anchorage, personal equipment, medical/evacuation and trip insurance, individual food on the mountain, meals and lodging in Talkeetna, park fee of \$150.00, gratuities and early departure services. These are the same services and exceptions offered by commercial expeditions with the exception of food. We recently offered food service on Aconcagua and it worked out well. However, we are eliminating the service on this expedition, leaving preferences to the individual climber. Should any member require assistance on a good mountain diet, please don't hesitate to request information from the trip leader. They will be happy to provide recommendations on diets ranging from class mountain cuisine to budget grub. Members will be expected to make a \$1,000.00 deposit three

months prior to departure to reserve your place on the trip. The remaining \$1,750 is will be due one month prior to departure.

5. **Difficulty.** Standing at 20,320ft., Denali is the highest mountain in North America. The West Buttress of Denali requires intermediate alpine mountaineering skills on moderate-angle gradient. Permanent glaciers and snow fields begin at approximately 4,600ft. Climbers should be strong cold weather campers, familiar with glacier travel and the use of equipment necessary for safe travel in a high alpine glacial environment (e.g. crampons, mountain axe, self arrest, etc.). In addition, members must be confident traveling on relatively exposed terrain. The position of Denali in the far reaches of the North at 63° means its cold and there is less oxygen in comparison to other peaks of similar altitude. Anyone with experience on Denali will tell you that altitude and weather will be two of the most significant hazards we will have to overcome. Each member should be familiar with their tolerance to altitude, personal acclimatization schedule and fitness. Please review the enclosed itinerary and make sure it is within your ability. Finally, we have opted for a 30 day itinerary because we want to reach the top. Very often, Denali is overwhelmed with storm fronts that put teams on hold for more than a week. These teams eventually return home unsuccessful because not enough time was afforded for weather a delay. We decided that if we're going to make the effort to climb Denali, we should give it the respect it deserves and plan on bad weather. If we can achieve summit success earlier, then we'll celebrate and go home early.

6. **Come join us!** If you want to be a part of this great opportunity, you can reach us at (505)670-1441 or S2Mountaineering@live.com. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

33 DAY ITINERARY

Day 1	Arrive Anchorage, AK early PM. Van shuttle to Talkeetna.
Day 2	Expedition planning, packing, preparation and gear check in Talkeetna
Day 3-5	Fly to Kahiltna Base (7,200ft.) and make first carry to 10,000ft. Additional days are built-in for weather delay
Day 6	Advance to Kahiltna Pass at 10,000ft (Camp 1)
Day 7	Carry to 11,500ft.
Day 8	Advance to 11,500ft. (Camp 2)
Day 9	Rest day
Day 10	Carry to 14,200ft.
Day 11	Advance to 14,200 ft. (Camp 3)
Day 12	Acclimatization/Rest days
Day 13	Carry to 16,400 or 17,200ft., depending on acclimatization. This is the most physically and technically demanding section of the climb, requiring a 900ft. ascent up 45/50° slopes to reach the crest of the West Buttress.
Day 14	Carry to 17,200ft.

Day 15	Rest day
Day 16	Advance to 17,200ft. (Camp 4)
Day 17-22	Summit Attempts / Snow Days (20,320ft.)
Day 23	Rest and descent
Day 24-25	Return to Kahiltna Base
Day 26	Return to Talkeetna
Day 27-29	Contingency days for bad flight weather
Day 30	Departures from Talkeetna

LOGISTICS PLAN

1. **Medevac Plan.** Medevac is primarily the responsibility of the members of the expedition. We will have basic alpine/field medical equipment for the team as well as well-trained members in crevasse rescue. In extreme cases, the Park Service can be contacted for Helo-evac.
2. **Communication.** Standard communication signal Channel 19 (27.185 MHz). We will have radios capable of long-range communication and weather reports.
3. **Food & Water.** Provided by expedition members.
4. **Group Gear.** Tents, burners with fuel, water pots for cooking, group medical kit, radios, snow shovels, ropes, pickets, screws, pulleys.
5. **Hotels.** Provided by expedition members.
6. **Ground/Air Transportation.** Provided by expedition services from Anchorage to Talkeetna to Kahiltna and return.

SUGGESTED PERSONAL GEAR

- 1 pr. warm fleece mitten liners
- 1 pr. wind/waterproof mitten covers - gloves alone are not adequate for Alaskan climbing. Please bring mitts as well
- 1 pr. medium-weight poly-liner gloves - these will be worn inside your mitts
- 2 pr. heavy polypropylene (or woolen blend) thermal socks. (An extra set for changes is recommended)
- 1 expedition weight thermal shirt
- 1 fleece jacket
- 1 fleece pullover
- 1 gore tex jacket
- 1 pr. expedition weight thermal leggings
- 1 pr. fleece pants
- 1 pr expedition bib gore-tex pants
- 1 extra warm hat
- 1 neck gaitor
- 1 balaclava
- 1 pr. Snow-wind goggles
- 1 pr. glacier glasses
- 1 mountaineer's climbing harness

2 locking carabiners
 4 regular carabiners
 1 20 centimeter ice screw
 1 picket (snow stake)
 1 helmet (optional. There is little danger of falling debris on the West Buttress. However, it is useful for falls)
 1 descender/abseil device, (a figure-8 is best, an ATC style is not as good but acceptable)
 1 ascending device (Petzl "large size" is best)
 1 crevasse self-rescue prusik and leg loops set-up
 1 55-60 centimeter ice axe
 1 huge backpack
 2 adjustable ski poles
 1 "crazy creek" chair (optional)
 1 six inch by six inch piece of thin plywood to put stove on
 1 insulated mug
 Personal bowl, utensils, spice kit, etc.
 1 pr. skis or snowshoes
 1 pr. plastic double boots
 1 pr gaitors (for lower portion of glacier)
 1 pr down camp booties
 1 pr. Crampons, with adjustment tool
 1 pr. Overboots (BEWARE of poorly fitting crampons with overboots)
 1 goose-down jacket with hood -- MANDATORY
 1 pr. Goose-down (duvet) trousers (optional)
 2 1 liter insulated water bottles. Insulated covers are mandatory
 1 urine bottle
 2 closed cell foam pads (inflatable mats suffer from cramponing and are not recommended for climbing)
 4 large, waterproof rubbish sacks. (These will help you keep your kit dry in the snow)
 1 headlamp
 Headlamp batteries, extra bulb
 2 tubes lip sun cream, 2 tubes skin sun cream (min.factor 15)
 1 skin blister repair kit
 1 bottle anti-diarrhea pills
 1 bottle your favorite med. for headaches
 1 bottle cough and/or cold medicine
 1 bottle of Diamox/Acetylzolamide
 Do not bring sleeping pills. They are a respiratory depressant
 Whatever toiletries and personal meds you may require
 1 personal equipment repair kit
 2 cigarette lighters, 2 small boxes matches
 1 compass, 1 small multi-purpose knife
 1 camera and film
 1 box Huggies/wet ones - great for personal hygiene
 1 down sleeping bag (-30 degrees Centigrade)
 1 bivy sac. (optional but helps keep sleeping bag away from the snow)
 1 Pulke (Sled. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! The plastic "sleds" provided by the air service are horrible)
 Food according to your needs and preference