



Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School

Director Jon Tierney, internationally licensed IFMGA mountain guide
PCIA Accredited, AMGA Accredited since 1993

TRIP INFORMATION PACKET MT WASHINGTON WINTER ASCENT GROUP TRIP

Thank you for registering for a winter ascent of New England's highest peak (6288'!!) through Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Trip Dates: Saturday - February 4, 2011

Trip Leaders: Dick Chasse

Trip Description:

Although many reach the summit of Mt. Washington via the auto road or a summer hiking trail, far fewer can lay claim to a winter ascent under their own power. Although primarily a winter hike, some short technical sections, where axes and crampons are needed, may be encountered. Harsh winds and changes in weather make Mt. Washington a challenging and exciting venture. This trip is physically demanding but requires no previous winter mountaineering experience. The trip will be lead by experienced winter mountaineering guides who are also trained in avalanche assessment and wilderness medicine.

Tuition: The fee includes guiding and instruction; technical gear such as crampons, ice axe, transceiver, and double boots as needed. You are responsible for providing your own clothing, lunch snacks, etc.

Reservations, Refunds & Cancellations: \$150 per person. Space is limited so register early to guarantee a spot and to help insure the course runs. Late registrations are possible if the course is running and space is available. A 50% deposit is required for registration. Balance is due two weeks (14 days) before the beginning of program. Fifty percent (50%) of deposit is refundable if cancellation is made more than 14 days in advance. Cancellations made within fourteen (14) days of program forfeit entire tuition rate. A full refund will be given if Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School must cancel the course. There is a \$20.00 charge for returned checks. All trips are limited to 8 participants.

NOTE: Extreme weather, avalanche conditions, inadequate personal fitness, or difficult terrain may make it impossible to achieve our stated objective of the summit. No refunds will be made in anticipation of inclement weather or for not reaching the summit.

General Itinerary:

We will meet at the Pinkham Notch Visitors Center at 8 a.m.. From there we will check personal gear, hand out technical equipment, and hit the trail!

Transportation: Participants are responsible for travel – we will be happy to help arrange carpooling.

Directions to Pinkham Notch:

From Boston: take I-95 north to Spaulding Turnpike North (at Portsmouth) then Spaulding Turnpike to Route 16 North to North Conway. Be careful not to confuse Conway, Center Conway and North Conway with each other. Continue on 302 North (and 16 North) (about 30 minutes) to Pinkham Notch Visitor Center on the left.

From Bangor: I-95 south to Gardiner, follow Maine Turnpike (I-495) to Gray. Follow Route 115 west to Windham. Follow 302 west into North Conway (about 3.5 hours). Be careful not to confuse Conway, Center Conway and North Conway with each other. Continue on 302 North (and 16 North) (about 30 minutes) to Pinkham Notch Visitors Center on the left.

Lodging: The AMC Joe Dodge Lodge rents rooms right at Pinkham Notch. Contact them at 603-466-2727 to make a reservation. There is a Youth Hostel in Conway (800-886-4284, about \$20.00) and a bunkroom in North Conway (Mt. Cranmore 800-356-3596, about \$20.00). There are also many hotels and B & Bs in the area. The Dolly Copp Campground (Forest Service) is a few miles north of Pinkham Notch on Route 16 and is open in the winter

Food: Pinkham Notch Visitors Center does have a cafeteria for those looking for a good meal before or after climbing. Participants should bring easy to eat trail lunch foods such as Clifbars, raisins, peanuts, chocolate, etc. and plenty of fluids.

Risk and Rescue: Enjoying the outdoors necessitates a certain degree of risk-taking. You are participating in this trip and entering the winter environment of Mt. Washington at your own risk. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to minimize various hazards through the application of good judgment gained from a foundation of education and experience. Some of the hazards that can lead to injury associated with this trip include but are not limited to extreme cold, high winds, demanding physical travel, and avalanches. Please be sure that you are fully aware of such risks. Self-reliance in the face of adversity is expected on the part of the wilderness traveler entering the backcountry. Cell phones and radios should not be relied upon in an emergency. While most risks cannot be completely eliminated, it is our goal to interpret the environmental, situational and group variables and to make educated decisions to minimize dangers to you while at the same time providing an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Search and rescue operations are conducted on a discretionary basis, and should not be expected. The level and urgency of the response is determined by field personnel based on their evaluation of the situation. A rescue will be initiated only when necessary and when within the reasonable technical ability of available personnel and provides rescuers with a reasonable margin of safety. Rescue is not automatic. For all practical purposes, a party is alone and must depend upon its own resources for self-rescue and be equipped for an extended emergency.

At the start of the trip, you will be asked to complete a health statement, and Release and Assumption of Risk Form. If you are under 18, please do this in advance. Please provide us with emergency contact information at the time of registration.

Personal Equipment Checklist

** = provided

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy rucksack or daypack | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and lip balm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing double boot ** | <input type="checkbox"/> Ski goggles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ski poles (suggested) | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof mitten shells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High gaiters or supergaiters | <input type="checkbox"/> insulating wool blend socks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insulating mittens and gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> warm hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thin wicking sock liners and / or vapor barrier sock | <input type="checkbox"/> Expedition weight down or synthetic jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> balaclava that covers entire head | <input type="checkbox"/> Insulating pants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mid - heavy weight insulating jacket or sweater | <input type="checkbox"/> Crampons ** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wicking innerwear top and bottom | <input type="checkbox"/> Avalanche transceiver ** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof / breathable jacket and pants | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insulated, wide-mouthed, water bottle or thermos | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp with fresh batteries (rentable) | |

If you need to use double boots from us, please call us with your size.

Gear Discount:

You are entitled to a 15% discount coupon on all future purchases at Alpenglow Adventure Sports, our retail store and at AlpenglowGear.com

References:

Avalanche Safety for Skiers and Climbers.

Cary, Bob. Winter Camping, Stephen Greene Press, Vermont, 1979.

Powers, NOLS Mountaineering Book.

Cinammon, Climbing Rock and Ice - Learning the Vertical Dance.

Peters, ed. Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills. The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1982.

Thanks for your interest in this trip. If you have any remaining questions, please call us at 207-866-7562 or visit our store and office.