

# WOMEN'S DENALI EXPEDITION

*Alaska Mountaineering School promotes excellence in responsible mountaineering and wilderness travel through educating and guiding others. Our hands-on, you do it approach leads to successful outcomes. We want you to be able to repeat the skills you learned without supervision. The rope safety systems involved with crevasse rescue are best introduced in a classroom setting before getting on a glacier.*



## WOMEN'S DENALI EXPEDITION

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Thank you for your interest in Alaska Mountaineering School's Women's Denali Expedition. AMS is thrilled to be offering this opportunity for the first time in 2024. Part of what will make this group special is that it will be a small team of only six female climbers with three female guides. This is a rare and excellent opportunity for climbers to work together for 22 days with the common goal of climbing to the top of North America with a supportive affinity group.



Climbing Denali is a sustained difficult challenge, no matter how you slice it. The remote wilderness is serious and the weather is extreme. This also provides unparalleled beauty and commitment which is part of what makes climbing in the Alaska Range a lifetime achievement for climbers worldwide.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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- Route, West Buttress. 20,310' / 6,190m
- Advanced (Alaska Grade II)
- June 3 - June 24, 22 days
- 6 climbers: 3 guides
- \$12,100 per climber

## WHAT THIS EXPEDITION IS

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Please carefully read our [Denali, West Buttress Expedition Details](#) found on [our website](#). This all-female team will follow our standard expedition plan. We welcome all who identify as female to apply to join this team.

This expedition provides:

- An opportunity to support personal achievements in a collaborative context.
- Strong female leadership, organization, and communication throughout the climb.
- Opportunity to communicate with your guides in advance about gear, training, and mindset.
- Careful screening of all participants in advance in order to build a team with common goals, mindset, fitness, and experience.
- Teamwork: everyone is required to contribute each day with the physical and mental work of the climb.
- Supportive teammates and leaders.
- Additional training time to review Denali-specific ropework skills in Talkeetna, before our flight to the Kahiltna Glacier.



## WHAT THIS EXPEDITION IS NOT

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- The time to learn mountaineering, winter camping, or snowshoeing for the first time.
- There are no porters to assist. We will be carrying all of our equipment; food, fuel, backpacks, and sleds will be heavy -- up to 70 pounds, at times, throughout the climb. Be prepared to dig deep both mentally and physically.
- A space to process sexism and its repercussions. We aim to keep our focus on the day-to-day mountain climbing experience. Your guides are excellent at what they do but are not mental health professionals.

## HOW TO APPLY

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Deadline is November 15, 2023:

- Ask questions; contact AMS, or reach out the Denali guides: Michelle Leonard, [michelle\\_leonard@nols.edu](mailto:michelle_leonard@nols.edu) and Nadine Lerner, [nadine.lehner@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.lehner@gmail.com)
- Complete and email return to AMS: the [AMS Application](#) and [Expedition Questionnaire](#). In your email please provide an answer to the following question:

### Why do you want to join our All Women's Denali Expedition?

- Schedule a Zoom meeting with AMS Director, Colby Coombs. If available, Nadine and/or Michelle may also be on the call.
- AMS will review all applications and we will make the final selection of climbers for this team on November 16, 2023. AMS will notify all applicants no later than November 17.
- If you are accepted, AMS staff will reach out to you with details of how to pay your non-refundable deposit, of \$3000.00.
- Purchase trip insurance, AMS will send you a link. Insurance covers you if you have to cancel before the climb for nearly any reason, pre-expedition injuries and illness do happen.

- Once you've paid your deposit, AMS staff will send you a few emails right away with helpful information as well as forms to read and return. You will also receive in the mail, two books to help prepare you for this climb.
- AMS is always available to you if you have any questions.



Post Office Box 566, 13765 East Third Street  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 USA tel: 907.733.1016  
[info@climbalaska.org](mailto:info@climbalaska.org),  
<https://climbalaska.org>,  
instagram: @alaskamountaineeringschool