



SWS Mountain Guides

P.O. Box 988

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**MOUNT WHITNEY 14,505 ft.
WINTER ASCENT
Lone Pine, CA**



General Description: Mt. Whitney offers another exceptional training ground for intermediate to advanced climbers wanting to expand their experience in the winter environment. Climbing the highest peak in the lower 48 states is a exciting challenge during the winter months. Learn and practice the skills needed to climb similar peaks around the world. The conditions during the winter months on Mt. Whitney will give you the experience you need to climbing bigger and higher peaks in the world as well as to tackle those winter ascents in the lower 48 states.

Instruction includes: Rope team travel, Snow protection placement, high camp establishment, avalanche hazard evaluation, review of ice ax and crampon skills, snowshoeing skills and much more. Expand your climbing into the winter season. The main emphasis of this climb is an attempt of Mt. Whitney via the Mountaineer's route. Join us on this one for a great winter climbing experience.

Itinerary: After meeting at 7:00 am on the first day at Elevations climbing shop in Lone Pine, CA we will conduct a complete pack check and divide up the group gear. We will then carpool to the trailhead at Whitney Portal, or lower if the road is snowed in! From here we will then snowshoe/ski to our base camp at Lower Boy Scout Lake (10,348 feet). As we snowshoe/ski we will be instructing and holding informal lectures. On day two we will move camp higher up in the drainage possibly to Upper Boy Scout Lake (11,339 feet) or beyond. The rest of the day will be spent working on the various winter mountaineering skills mentioned above. We will then retire early in preparation for an alpine start on summit day (up by 1:00 - 3:00 am). The fourth day will be spent getting back to the trailhead, hopefully returning to the vehicles by 5:00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE - This is a best-case scenario. This itinerary is subject to change at the guide's discretion and is dependent on mountain conditions, group experience/expectations, and other factors we cannot anticipate.

Location: Inyo National Forest, Mt. Whitney (14,505 feet).

Food: Group breakfast(s), dinner(s), and hot beverages are included. Please bring your own favorite, high-calorie, high-carbohydrate lunches and snacks. Examples: bagels, cheese, dried fruit, trail mix, Clif bars, chocolate, etc.

Level: Intermediate to Advanced (please check with the SWS Directors for skill level) Participants should be in **excellent** physical condition. Backpacks will weigh anywhere from 45 to 65 pounds. Previous mountaineering experience is recommended, (knowledge of knots, belays, crampon and ice axe use: Note: Pre-climb Ice Ax & Crampon clinic maybe available the day prior to the course start date, give us a call if interested). Completion of our Basic Winter Mountaineering Course is a recommended pre-course for this climb. Please give us a call if you have any questions about this. Elevation gain on this climb is 6,135 feet from the trailhead at Whitney Portal (8,360 feet) to the Mt. Whitney Summit (14,505 feet). If you



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anticipate a problem with altitude sickness please call and talk to us. We have several techniques that can help you to avoid, or at the very least, minimize adverse reactions to altitude.

Dates 2012:

January 13-16 (Martin Luther King)

February 9-12

March 1-4, 22-25

April 12-15, 26-29

Cost: \$995.00 (Guide to client ratio is 1:3. Group size is limited to 6.)

Includes: Professional instruction/guide, breakfast(s), dinner(s), ice axes, helmets, harness, group-climbing equipment including ropes and avalanche safety equipment, group camping equipment including tents and stoves, permits, and permit fees. Mountaineering/Skiing Boots, Snowshoes/Skis, and Crampons are **NOT** included. For a more detailed list see our equipment list for this course.

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