



## SWS Mountain Guides

210 East Lake St.

Mt. Shasta, Ca. 96067

mail@swsmtns.com

[www.swsmountainguides.com](http://www.swsmountainguides.com)

Phone: 888.797.6867 / Fax: 877.797.6867

### GUIDED MOUNT WHITNEY WINTER ASCENT MT. WHITNEY 14,505 FT.



**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 an exciting challenge during the winter months. Gain the experience 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 join expeditions to the far corners of the globe, as well as to tackle those winter ascents in the lower 48 states. Expand your climbing into the winter season and your climbing experience with a winter attempt of Mt. Whitney via the Mountaineer's route.

Our four-day guided Mt. Whitney Winter Ascent is for climbers with previous winter experience. We will attempt the summit of Mt. Whitney via the Mountaineer's route. Topics to be discussed and/or experienced: avalanche awareness, weather awareness, route finding, winter climbing techniques, protecting against the cold, mountain medicine along with technical skills in snow and ice anchors, running belays, quick belay techniques, protecting short pitches, wand placement, advanced route finding, and hazard evaluation.

**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 - 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:** Advanced. Participants should be in **excellent** physical condition. Backpacks will weigh anywhere from 45 to 65 pounds. Previous mountaineering experience is required; basic knowledge of knots, rope handling skills, ice ax and crampons use. An ice ax and crampon clinic can be arranged the day prior to the Mt. Whitney Winter Ascent at extra cost for those who need additional instruction with ice ax and crampon skills. Please give us a call if you have any questions about the skills needed.



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### **Dates 2016:**

January: 15-18

*Martin Luther King Weekend*

February: 12-15

*President's Day Weekend*

March: 3-6

March 22-25\*

*Easter Week / \*Mid-week*

April: 14-17

May: 19-22

**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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