



- Denali Prep - Course Itinerary

Meeting Time: There is a mandatory gear/equipment check with the guides at 7 AM on the first morning of the course.

Meeting Location: This program meets at the [AAI Headquarters](#).
1513 12th St, Bellingham, WA, 98225

*Please note, this itinerary can and will change with conditions

Day 1 • Bellingham, WA •

- We will take a few hours to discuss expedition-related gear and to check your personal equipment and cold weather gear. Before leaving for the mountain, we will establish a formal trip plan and discuss things like time, mileage, camp locations, and general strategy for the coming days as a group would on an expedition climb.



Day 2 • Winter Skills Day •

Camp-fortifying techniques and building snow and/or block walls. On all Denali expeditions, we use a group cook tent, which must be dug into the snow and set up at each camp as we work our way up the mountain. Being able to efficiently and effectively dig-in and reinforce camps on Denali is extremely important to the group's safety and success, and no detail is spared in covering these methods. Group camping and cooking etiquette are put into practice and camp duties will be assigned on a rotational basis.



Day 3 • Climbing Skills and Mountaineering Basics •

Snow skills and ice axe and crampon use. The snow conditions will dictate a lot of what is possible with regard to snow skills. The potentially deep and soft snow conditions can make skill practice difficult, as climbers tend to wade rather than climb in these conditions. If self-arrest and cramponing practice are not possible, we will cover more in-depth avalanche assessment scenarios.



Day 4 • Crevasse Rescue •

- Crevasse rescue and group rescue scenarios. Crevasse rescue methods on Denali are often quite different than those on other mountains because of the unique nature and size of the rope teams and because of the heavy backpacks and sleds each member has in tow. We will practice scenarios for individual and group rescue as they relate to crevasse falls. We will plan on moving camp at least three times on this trip both to gain experience with establishing camp in different locations.



Day 5 • Training for Denali's Upper Mountain •

- Fixed-line and running belay practice. Moving efficiently through the portion of the West Buttress route protected by fixed lines and fixed protection is very important to maintaining the set schedule and maximize summit days on the upper mountain (of Denali). We will spend the majority of this day practicing passing pickets and running protection, and ascending fixed lines as a rope team.



Day 6 • Additional Skills and Review •

- The conditions on Mount Baker in the winter can vary from hard, wind-blown ice to deep snow. The final day of the course can be used to review skills, practice skills that were delayed due to weather, or answer questions. We will then descend, pack up camp, and head back to the trailhead. Please note, this course is focused on preparing for Denali. This is not a summit oriented course and no summit will be made.