

Denali National Park and Preserve Special Use Permit Activity for Non-Profit Organizations - Specific Stipulations

Attachment G 2013 MOUNTAINEERING

1. Annual Reports and Documentation

The SUP holder will submit the following reports and documentation to the Talkeetna Ranger Station:

- a) Schedule of climbs and itineraries, due April 1 or 30 days prior to operations, whichever is earlier
- b) Business Brochures and Advertising. Due annually as created.
- c) Proposed rate schedule. Due prior to conducting business under the rate schedule
- d) Employee Roster, due April 1 or 30 days prior to operations, whichever is earlier
- e) Operating Plan. Due as part of SUP application.

Note: These documents are in addition to other documentation requirements of the SUP program found elsewhere, such as application documents, proof of insurance, Activity Reports and Gross Receipts.

Before the Trip

1. Employee Briefings and Orientations

The SUP holder will provide employee orientation and training on park regulations, requirements, and policies. The SUP holder will be responsible for all actions of their employees while conducting business under the SUP. Upon NPS request, the SUP holder will provide written documentation of training and orientation.

2. Client Screening Process and Skill Review

The SUP holder will evaluate the skill level and experience of prospective clients to ensure that they are appropriate based on their intended objective or program. This screening and evaluation will take place prior to accepting their registration and deposit. Clients medical condition and history of illness should be evaluated as part of the screening process. Upon request, the SUP holder will provide the NPS with a written description of their screening process and experience requirements by program.

3. Client Registration Materials, Orientation, and Safety Briefing

In the pre-trip process the client should receive guidance in appropriate equipment selection and how to adequately prepare for their program. Registration materials should include but not be limited to the following.

- a) Equipment selection and preparation
- b) Physical preparation and training
- c) Course curriculum or climbing objective
- d) Travel and general program logistics
- e) Potential hazards including cold injuries, altitude sickness, weather, terrain, objective hazards, and expedition health and hygiene.

4. Food Packing and Recycling

The SUP holder will re-package food prior to starting the expedition to minimize waste in the mountains. The SUP holder will recycle all paper, cardboard, metal and plastics generated by the trips conducted under the SUP.

5. Approved Air Taxis

All trips that will use an aircraft for transportation into and out of the park will hire one of the air taxi's that currently holds a concession for such activities with Denali National Park. Please consult the Talkeetna Ranger station for a current list of permitted air taxi's if you are not familiar with approved vendors.

6. Registration

- a) All trips will register with the Talkeetna Ranger Station using the SUP Backcountry Registration form (example attached). Registration is required upon confirmation of the trip which includes receipt of registration form and deposit from the client.
- b) Cancellation Policy. The NPS will be notified as soon as practical, but not less than 48 hours before, a SUP trip has been cancelled
- c) Check-In Requirements. All SUP trips are required to check in at the Talkeetna Ranger Station in person and present a copy of their SUP permit. At this time clients will also be required to pay the \$10 per person park entrance fee. Annual Interagency and park specific passes are accepted to cover the entrance fee as per the rules under which the pass was issued.
- d) Clean Mountain Cans (CMC). During the check-in process, each climber (guides and clients alike) will be required to rent an individual CMC for the fee of \$50.00 per person. The CMCs will be provided by the NPS at the Talkeetna Ranger Station.
- e) SUP holders may pre-purchase entrance fee tickets to be sold to their clients. Refunds must be provided to clients in the event the trip is cancelled. The use of pre-paid entrance fee tickets does not negate the in person check in requirement (see C above). Please contact Missy Smothers at 907-733-9119 or missy_smothers@nps.gov for more information on this option.
- f) In the event that extenuating circumstances make in person check out impossible, the Talkeetna Ranger Station will be notified by telephone within 24 hours of the trip leaving the Alaska Range. An explanation as to why the in person requirement was not met must be provided. All telephone check outs are subject to review by the NPS and may result in administrative actions including revocation of the SUP and citation.

During The Trip

1. Visitor Safety

The SUP holder will conduct all activities with safety as their highest priority.

2. Leave No Trace Requirements and NPS Waste Management Policies

Guides are responsible for ensuring that all members of the trip follow LNT guidelines and adhere to all NPS policies, regulations and protocol(s) for waste management and sanitation, backcountry travel, and camping.

3. Sanitation and Human Waste

All solid human waste from participants of activities authorized under this SUP will be managed in accordance with current NPS human waste policy. Collection and/or removal will be accomplished by the use of the Clean Mountain Can (CMC).

4. Trash removal

- a) The SUP holder is responsible for removing and properly disposing of all of their trash from the park. This includes food waste and micro trash at campsites and along routes.
- b) SUP holder trips will use the trash bags provided by the NPS. Each bag will be marked with the year of the expedition and the expedition's permit number.
- c) All cans must be flown off of the glacier at the conclusion of the trip.
- d) No caches may be left for other trips.

5. Caching Food and Gear

- a) Bury caches at least one meter deep into the snowpack or place in a hard-sided raven proof container with secure lid.
- b) Mark the cache with the expedition permit number, retrieval date, and lead guides name on a two-meter wand. Use at least one wand.
- c) All caches are to be removed at the conclusion of each trip and may not be left for subsequent trips.
- d) Improperly marked or abandoned caches are subject to citation and removal.

6. Group Size

The total group size for trips conducted under the SUP will not exceed 12 persons.

7. Climber-to-Guide Ratios

- a) Climber-to-guide ratios will be appropriate for the nature of the terrain and based on the course and climbing objectives. Climber to guide ratios will not exceed four climbers to one guide unless at a designated camping site that has been deemed safe.
- b) Circumstances may occur that call for a variation from these ratios during the trip. The lead guide will report (either verbally or in written form) the reasons for the deviation to the South District Ranger upon checking out at the ranger station at the conclusion of their trip.
- c) Solo glacier travel is generally not permitted for either guides or clients.
- d) A client shall never be left unattended. Clients may be left behind in camp only if there is another authorized SUP guide responsible for them.

- e) Guides will carry a communication device capable of establishing two-way communication both with the SUP company and the NPS for the duration of the trip. In most areas of the Alaska Range, satellite phones are the only reasonable option for two-way communication. FRS radios are highly recommended to maintain communication between teams should a larger group choose to function as two separate teams.
- f) At all points on the trip teams will carry equipment necessary to preserve life and limb in the event of an emergency.

8. Roped Glacier Travel

- a) Generally, when traveling on glaciers or in other hazardous terrain all trip participants will travel as part of a rope team. Guides and clients may un-rope at camps or rest areas on glaciers once the guide has designated a safe area.
- b) The NPS recognizes that certain terrain and glacier conditions may dictate the need to travel unroped for safety reasons. Roped travel will be required in areas where there is a possibility of crevasse fall. Unroped travel may only be conducted under the direction of the guide(s) and in areas deemed safe to do so. Ease of travel and enjoyment of skiing is not viewed as justification for unroped travel in crevassed areas. Decisions to travel unroped are subject to NPS review and may result in administrative actions including revocation of the SUP.

9. Search and Rescue Guidelines

- a) In certain instances, guides and team members may become involved with search and rescue operations involving other teams and/or the NPS. Before engaging in search and rescue events that do not directly involve their team, guides must ensure the safety and well-being of their clients.
- b) Guides will not be paid for search and rescue operations initiated by themselves or others; they may only be compensated when work is performed at the direct request of the National Park Service and carried out under NPS direction. The National Park Service will make an acknowledgement that the guide will be compensated at the time of a request for assistance. Guides will be paid on the same scale used for emergency firefighters, otherwise known as the AD scale. All the paperwork required for payment will be completed in a timely fashion or payment will be considered to be surrendered.

10. Emergency Response and Rescue Skills

- a) All guides will have training in self-rescue and evacuation skills. Guides will be able to coordinate self and team rescues including but not limited to crevasse extrication, raising and lowering operations, evacuation of ill and injured climbers, accident site management, triage skills, basic life support as per WFR protocols, and operating in and around aircraft.
- b) All guides will be briefed on NPS search and rescue procedures, radio procedures, knowledge of aircraft landing protocols, and knowledge of landing sites.
- c) Incidents involving personal injury to clients or guides must be reported to the NPS within 24 hours following completion of the climb.

- d) Any accident involving a fatality or serious injury must be reported to the NPS immediately and by the most expeditious means available.
- e) If an emergency fixed wing aircraft pickup is requested from an air taxi pilot, either the guide or the pilot should first attempt to contact the NPS to inform us of the emergency.
- f) Instances in which a client or guide becomes separated from the rest of the group and cannot be located should be reported to the NPS immediately.

12. Accidents and Injuries

The SUP operator is responsible for notifying the Park of any incident that results in an injury requiring significant treatment. Please reference NPS emergency notifications protocol (attached to SUP) for contact numbers and procedures. The SUP holder and/or employee involved in the incident may be required to provide statement and/or reports related to NPS investigation and documentation procedures.

13. Complaints

The SUP holder will send complaints and/or negative evaluations regarding the SUP holder operations to the NPS concessions management specialist in charge of SUP administration. The NPS will require a written response in a timely manner including any proposed remedies or administrative actions.

After the Trip

1. Check-Out Requirements

All trips will check out in person at the Talkeetna Ranger Station within 24 hours of leaving the Alaska Range. Guide(s) will return CMCs and provide trip details as well as route and sanitation conditions. While encouraged to do so, clients are not required to attend check out unless they were involve in an incident that requires reporting to the NPS by the SUP holder.

Failure to comply with the requirements outlined above may result in the revocation of the SUP and may impact the opportunity to operate in Alaska units of the NPS in the future.