

## Park Specific Stipulations: Guided Mountaineering/Climbing

### Permitted Activities

Guided mountaineering, climbing, and ski mountaineering are authorized under this permit.

### Authorized Areas

#### 1980 Park and Preserve Additions

### Group Size

Total group size is 12, inclusive of CUA holder and employees (guides) except in backcountry units (BCUs) 65-69, 80, and 82-85 which have a maximum group size is 6, including guides.

- The CUA holder must only have 1 group per Backcountry Unit at the same time. With advance written permission, two groups may be in BCU 78 at the same time. See details under Additional Regulations and Considerations.

### Guide Certification

- Extensive certifications are required, see Guided Mountaineering Supplemental Application.

### Safety and Resource Protection

#### Leave No Trace Principles

- Guides and clients must hike on established trails or snow whenever possible.
- Guides and clients must remove all of their trash from the Park. Guides are encouraged to remove any additional litter they encounter.
- All solid human waste must be managed in accordance with the most current Denali National Park and Preserve human waste policy.
  - Within one-half mile of glacial landing sites used by aircraft, solid human waste must be collected in a Clean Mountain Can (CMC) or personal receptacle and removed from the Park.
  - On technical climbing routes, solid human waste must be tossed or shoveled away from the route.

#### Staffing

- Maximum 3 clients per guide.
- For mountaineering courses, maximum 5 clients per guide.
- Each group will have a Lead Guide who will oversee the climb check-in to check-out.
- Clients shall never be left without a guide.

#### Communication Devices

- Each guide must carry a Family Radio Service (FRS) radio and/or satellite device, with sufficient extra batteries.
- Guides must be proficient in the use of the communication device and be able to make emergency calls.
- At a minimum, FRS radios must be able to transmit and receive on FRS channel 1 (462.5625).

#### Solo Travel

- Guides and clients must travel as an organized group.

- Solo travel is prohibited for guides and clients.
- [Helmet Use](#)
- Helmets are required in areas with overhead hazards.
- [Roped travel requirement](#)
- When traveling on glaciers or in other hazardous terrain, guides and clients must travel roped up to a partner.
- Guides and clients may un-rope at camps or rest areas on glaciers once the guide has designated a safe area.

[Un-roped travel exceptions](#)

[Mountaineering courses and ski mountaineering expeditions](#)

- Guides and clients may travel downhill un-roped in glaciated terrain where a fall is unlikely to result in serious injury or death. When travelling un-roped the Lead Guide must perform the following:
  - Prior to un-roped travel, the Lead Guide must conduct a visual and physical inspection of the terrain.
  - Hazardous conditions must be assessed (crevasse hazard, snow condition, avalanche hazard, seracs, rock fall, and weather/visibility).
  - Assess snowpack instability. A hazard avoidance strategy must be implemented to avoid exposure to larger than D1 avalanches and should be based on avalanche problems and terrain use.
- Guides must manage the terrain to avoid crevasses and/or use a rope for belay when crevasse falls are likely.
- Guides must hold a safety briefing before un-roped travel to discuss hazards and boundaries.
- Guides must consider other skiers/climbers and avoid creating hazardous conditions for others.

## [Additional Regulations and Considerations](#)

[Client Screening and Training](#)

- The CUA holder must ensure clients are prepared to safely participate in scheduled activities.
- The CUA holder must provide education and/or training, before and/or during the trip as appropriate to ensure client safety and education of relevant topics.

[Registration Procedures](#)

- [Guided Backcountry Registration forms](#) must be submitted electronically at least 48 hours before the trip.
- CUA trip leaders must check-in, in person, at the Talkeetna Ranger Station within 24 hours of scheduled fly-in date with a copy of their CUA permit.
- During check-in, CMCs with biodegradable bags are available for checkout.
- CUA trip leaders must check out, in person, at the Talkeetna Ranger Station within 24 hours of the expedition's return to Talkeetna.
- The CUA holder cannot check-in more than 1 group per day.

[Caching](#)

- Caches must be buried at least 1 meter deep.
- Caches must be marked with a cache tag that includes CUA holder name, expedition permit number, Lead Guide's name, air taxi provider and retrieval date. At least 1-two-meter wand

must be used.

- All caches must be removed from the Park during the same operating season in which they were placed.
- Unmarked and improperly buried caches may be removed by the NPS.

#### **BCU 78 Group Exception**

Unit 78 has a high concentration of technical climbing routes that are geographically separated by distance, terrain and fixed-wing access points. CUA operators may operate two groups in this area during the same time period with advanced approval.

- Requests must be made through the concession office (dena\_cua@nps.gov) with proposed dates, number of guides and clients in each group, and proposed climbing routes and landing strips.
- NPS approval must be received prior to operating two groups in BCU 78.
- The operator must maintain guide to client ratios.
- The operator must adhere to a combined total group size of 12, inclusive of guides, combined between the two groups.

#### **Unauthorized Activities**

- Activities within the Old Park boundary, including the Upper Kahiltna area (BCU 46), are prohibited.