Denali National Park and Preserve Commercial Use Authorization
Guided Mountaineering Supplemental Application: Guide Certifications and Operating Plan

Applicants must submit the following materials along with their application to be considered for a Guided Mountaineering CUA. Use the Guide List Template to report guide certifications.

Guide Training and Certification Requirements

a) All guides must have previous climbing and guiding experience that includes glacier travel and/or a level of technical climbing experience appropriate to the objective of their course or climb.
b) All guides must have successfully completed a formal alpine guide's training program that includes both course and field work that incorporates best industry practices with a focus on high altitude sub-arctic environs.
c) All lead guides must have successfully completed an avalanche training course that meets or exceeds the American Avalanche Association's Level 2 program. All assistant guides must have successfully completed an avalanche training course that meets or exceeds the American Avalanche Association's Level 1 program.
d) All guides must have successfully completed a Leave No Trace (LNT) program that meets or exceeds LNT's Awareness course.
e) All guides must, at a minimum, maintain a valid Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification (Outdoor Emergency Care and Emergency Medical Technician Certifications meet or exceed this requirement) and must hold a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) card.
f) In addition to the above requirements, all guides leading an expedition where skis will be utilized by both clients and guides under the "ski mountaineering" exemptions and requirements must have experience ski guiding in glaciated terrain. All Lead Guides must have successfully completed a ski guide training that meets or exceeds the American Mountain Guides Association Ski Guide program. An equivalent certification must be documented through training and experience.
g) Skis may still be used for traditional trips that do not fall into the definition of "ski mountaineering" and thus the additional requirements do not apply. In this scenario, clients may be on snowshoes and guide(s) may be on skis as a personal travel preference but where the expedition is not advertised as a ski mountaineering trip.
h) The CUA holder must develop an evaluation form and evaluate each guide on an annual basis. The completed evaluations must be made available to the Service upon request.

Company Operating Plan:

CUA applicants must submit an operating plan to provide company background, procedures and policies. Each operating plan must include the following topics:

a) Philosophy or mission statement
b) Administrative structure and operational personnel
c) Resource protection, sanitation, waste management strategy
d) Safety and medical program
e) Emergency operations and protocols
f) Risk management plan
g) Staffing

i. Describe your guide's training and ongoing staff development programs.
ii. Describe your employee performance evaluation process.

h) History of Operations
   i. Describe your company's history of operations in the Alaska Range and in other areas with similar terrain and conditions.
   ii. State in detail your company's overall background and experience relevant to the operation of guided mountaineering services.
   iii. List your other areas of operation and land use permits. Provide copies of all permit and contract evaluations for the last five years. Include a description of any permits that have been revoked or administrative actions you have been involved with regarding a revocation of use or access, including other businesses in which the principals of the company or individual applying on behalf of the company have been involved.
   iv. Explain any guided mountaineering accidents or injuries requiring treatment or evacuation of clients or guides in the last five years.
   v. Explain the circumstances of any instances when your company's insurance for guided mountaineering has been cancelled or revoked.
   vi. Identify and explain if the company or its principals have any pending lawsuits or been found liable through a court or mediation for incidents or activities in relation to guided mountaineering.

i) Instructional and educational programs for clients
j) Guided ascents
k) Briefing clients on NPS policies and protocols
l) Clients with disabilities
m) Reservation, cancellation, and refund policies
n) Considerations for other park visitors
o) Address environmental and cultural components, if applicable