



SWS Mountain Guides

210 East Lake St.

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Shasta Hotlum Glacier Expedition Course

5 Day Skills Course on Mt. Shasta's Hotlum Glacier with Northside Summit Climb



General Description: Our most comprehensive ice and snow course introduce climbers to all aspects of snow and ice climbing, glacier travel, and crevasse rescue. From route finding to technical ice climbing, this course offers five days of intense instruction and hands-on experience in the glacial environment. Skills to be covered include ice ax and crampon techniques, ice-axe self-arrest, roped team travel, running belays, anchors and protection systems, technical ice climbing (front pointing), crevasse rescue, route finding, mountain medicine, alpine weather, nutrition, and expedition climbing! An ascent of Mt. Shasta via a north or east side route culminates this exciting five-day alpine experience. An excellent course to establish a sound basis in alpine climbing in a snow/glaciated environment. Preparation for any climbing expedition worldwide.

Location: Mt. Shasta Wilderness Area, Mt. Shasta (14,179 feet).

Itinerary: After meeting at 8:00 am on the first day at our Mt. Shasta office we will conduct a complete pack check and divide up the group gear. We will then carpool to the trailhead on Mt. Shasta's east side (Brewer Creek Trailhead at 7,200 feet) or Mt. Shasta's north side (Northgate Trailhead at 7,000 feet). From the trailhead, we will ascend to our high camp at approximately 10,000 feet, with mini-clinics along the way with instruction in ice ax and crampon use if needed to get to the high camp. Day two will be spent on a snow field close to camp practicing the most basic skills of ice ax and crampon use, self-arrest, rope team travel, and basic snow/ice anchors. We will also be covering such topics as mountain medicine, mountain weather, and route finding. Day three will be spent either on the Hotlum Glacier or Chicago Glacier, practicing ice climbing, crevasse rescue systems, snow anchors, and glacial roped team travel. We will then retire early in preparation for an alpine start (up by 2:00 am) for our attempt of Mt. Shasta's summit. On the fourth day will see us putting our new skills into practice as we attempt to summit Mt. Shasta via either the Hotlum/Bolum Ridge or Hotlum/Wintun Ridge. On day five we will spend the morning reviewing any techniques taught during the week before breaking camp and heading back to the trailhead, arriving by late afternoon for the drive back to the town of Mt. Shasta. **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. It is possible that summit day might be on day's 3, 4, or 5!



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Food: Group breakfast(s), freeze dried dinner(s), and hot beverages included. Please bring your own favorite, high-calorie, high-carbohydrate lunches and snacks. Examples: bagels, cheese, dried fruit, trail mix, protein bars, chocolate, etc.

Prerequisites: No previous mountaineering experience required, but previous backpacking experience is extremely helpful. The better shape you are in, the more enjoyable the climb will be for you!

Level: Beginner to Advanced Intermediate. Participants should be **very good to excellent physical condition**. Our backpacks will weigh anywhere from 40 to 55 pounds to basecamp. Recent hiking or backpacking experience is required. Recent snow climbing, rock climbing, or mountaineering experience is recommended but not required. Please call us if you have any questions about this. Elevation gain to basecamp is 3,000 ft., elevation gain to the Summit is approximately 4,000+ ft. from our basecamp to the Mt. Shasta Summit (14,179 feet). Our base camp will be between 9,700 – 10,200 feet. If you anticipate a problem with altitude sickness, please call and talk to us. We have several techniques that can help you to avoid, or at the very least, minimize adverse reactions to altitude.

Pricing and Dates: www.swsmountainguides.com

Includes: Professional instruction/guide, breakfast(s), dinner(s), ice axes, helmets, harness, group climbing equipment including ropes and safety equipment, group camping equipment including tents and stoves, permits, and permit fees including Mt. Shasta summit fees. Mountaineering Boots, Snowshoes (early season), and Crampons are **NOT** included but are available for rent from SWS Mountain Guides. For more details about equipment, please see our equipment list for this course.

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