



Overview

Ascend Mount Baker (elevation 10,781 ft), the second most heavily glaciated peak of the Cascade Range volcanoes, and another classic peak in the North Cascades for the challenge of a lifetime on this mountaineering course. Designed for students with previous backpacking, rock climbing or mountaineering experience, this course is also well suited for Outward Bound alumni who want to continue their technical and personal skills development. Learn technical mountaineering skills and practice communication, conflict resolution, and decision-making strategies while exploring high mountain meadows and stunning alpine climbing and backpacking routes.

Outcomes

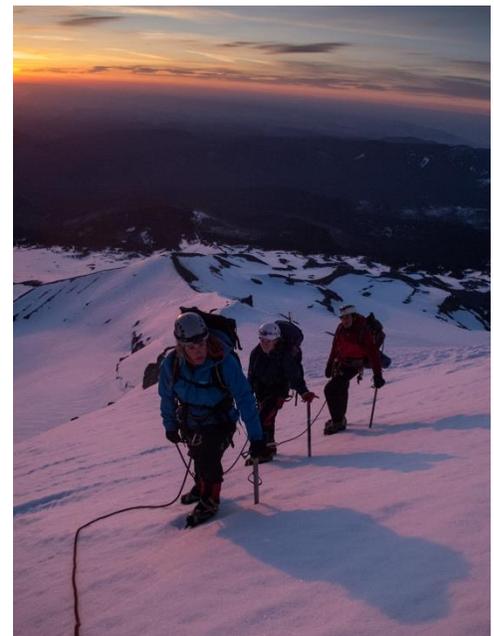
Outward Bound promotes character development, leadership, and service in the most engaging classroom possible ... the wilderness. In real time, students experience the effects of their decisions on themselves and the other members of their group as they work to complete difficult tasks necessary for wilderness travel. Instructors challenge students to try new things and step outside their comfort zones. They also provide feedback that students implement on course and when they return to their communities.

Course Area

THE NORTH CASCADES, WASHINGTON – Known as the “American Alps” for their rugged beauty and glaciated peaks, and host the greatest concentration of glaciers in the “Lower 48.” Mount Baker offers some of the most spectacular mountaineering in Washington, with views of jagged, snow-covered peaks, alpine waterfalls, and mountain flora and fauna. Our mountaineering courses operate primarily on the east side of the Cascade Range, which receives significantly less rainfall than the west side. Temperatures range from freezing to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Early-season courses (May, June) may spend time camping on snow, while mid-summer courses tend to have more moderate temperatures.

Course Activities

MOUNTAINEERING – Mountaineering courses move through high mountain terrain and focus on preparation for a peak attempt. Successful peak climbs require patience, efficiency, and teamwork to reach the summit, and may involve roped climbing on snow and/or rock. Students will start by learning backpacking skills, map and compass navigation, and Leave No Trace ethics, and progress to basic mountaineering skills. The instructor-to-student ratio is never more than 1:5 during this section, allowing for personal coaching from our expert climbing and mountaineering instructors on the physical techniques of mountaineering, as well as tailoring the curriculum to the interests and aptitudes of individual course participants.





SERVICE – Service to others and to our environment is a core value of Outward Bound and is integrated into each course. Groups follow Leave No Trace ethics as they engage in acts of service while leading and supporting fellow participants. Students see the impact of their actions firsthand, and may develop a desire to continue service in their home communities.

SOLO – In order for profound learning to take place, students spend time reflecting on their experience, and Solo is that opportunity. The Solo experience provides an important break from the rigors of the expedition and gives students the opportunity to reflect on their Outward Bound experience. With sufficient food and equipment, students will set up camp at sites of their own, using the wilderness skills learned during the first portions of the course. The amount of time students spend on Solo is based on course length, weather, student condition, age, and Instructor preference. Solo campsites are chosen to offer as much solitude as possible (yet be within emergency whistle-signaling distance of other group members). Most students spend their Solo time journaling, drawing, reflecting, thinking and resting as they process lessons of the course to focus on their goals for the future. Instructors check on each participant at regular intervals, as safety is always a top priority.

FINAL EXPEDITION - Outward Bound believes that an appropriate amount of independence is a powerful educational tool. During the travel sections of this course, Outward Bound instructors purposefully and gradually transfer certain leadership responsibilities to the students culminating



with our “Final Expedition.” Near the end of course—if the group has demonstrated the necessary leadership, team problem solving and wilderness living skills—students may have the opportunity to travel without instructors immediately present. Many of our students feel this phase of the course is the most rewarding, as the group learns to work as a team, problem solve, and accomplish a goal independently, while utilizing all the skills they have acquired.

Sample Itineraries

The following is an example of what your itinerary may look like. Your actual course plan will vary according to weather, student skills and abilities, and instructor preferences.

Day 1	Course Start
Day 2-4	Camp craft skills and basic mountaineering skills
Day 5	Summit Attempt of Mount Baker
Day 6	Solo, Final Expedition
Day 7	Course end and transport home