



Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Registration

Registration No. 56MT-KW2XM

Submitted Jan 9, 2019 12:12am by Nick Penzel

Registration

2018/2019

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund

RKMF Expedition Grant Group Application 2018-2019

This is the group application for a RKMF Expedition Grant. If you have received approval, you may fill out this application as a group. In this application you will be asked to provide important details concerning your expedition.

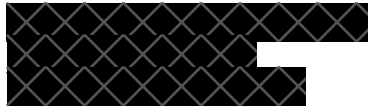
**Waiting
for
Approval**

Participant



Nick Penzel

Colorado College Student



I. Expedition Summary

Expedition Name

Out For a Rip in the Great White North: a Mountain and River Bonanza

Objectives

The Alaskan bush is notoriously wild, difficult, and remote. As such, we are going into this trip with no expectations other than to enjoy the beauty and wildness of the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and the Wild and Scenic Kobuk River. Although one of our objectives is to climb both technical and nontechnical peaks, this would be icing on the cake. Our real goal is to experience a new and challenging landscape together.

One of the most rewarding and challenging things about backcountry travel is complete self-reliance. This is one of the driving philosophies of our trip. We will be dropped in the remote Gates of the Arctic National Park, climb and hike in the Arrigetch Peaks, and then paddle 135 miles out along the Wild and Scenic Kobuk River to the town of Kobuk. By traveling out of the Brooks Range under our own power we will experience the landscape in a profoundly intimate way and practice total self-reliance.

Our group is made up of people with a diverse range of outdoor skills and experiences. From Skyler's whitewater guiding to Liam and Charlie G.'s experience with backcountry travel, and Nick and Charlie R.'s climbing experience, each member will bring their knowledge to the group to ensure a safe experience.

Location

We will begin our journey on the banks of the beautiful and pristine Walker Lake Located south of the Brooks range in Central Alaska. Over several days we will trek into the southern Arrigetch Mountains. We will be in the most remote and least traveled area of the Arrigetch, where few expeditions have gone before. The jagged beauty of these granite peaks is unrivaled in the Brooks Range, and it makes the Arrigetch the ideal place to climb in the Arctic Circle. Gates of the Arctic National Park is one of the least traveled parks in the parks system. We will consistently be days away from any civilization and we experience a truly unchanged ecosystem.

Once we return to Walker Lake we will journey down the wild and scenic Kobuk river. The river is known for its fishing, wildlife and views. Few people float this river from the headwaters because of the remote nature. On the 135 mile stretch to the town of Kobuk, we will experience class three whitewater, ample time for exploration along the banks of the river, and time to reflect and enjoy the landscape as it flows past us.

Departure Date

Jul 18, 2019

Return Date

Aug 12, 2019

Days in the Field

22

Wilderness Character

The Arrigetch has been visited by a select handful of hikers and climbers throughout the years, all seeking the remoteness and beauty of the Arctic. Famous names like Fred Beckey, Jon Krakauer, and more recently Tommy Caldwell and Hayden Kennedy have all left their marks on the range with first ascents. In the words of Caldwell, "It was just completely exploratory...we didn't see another trace of a human being up here. And that's cool, it adds this real spirit of exploration to the trip."

We hope to pursue this spirit of adventure and exploration on our trip. We will be in remote wilderness only accessible by plane. Additionally, while the Arrigetch Valley has become more popularized in recent years, we will be accessing the range from the far less traveled south side of the range. This will increase the wilderness character of our trip because it is an area of the range that rarely sees climbing expeditions or parties moving through it.

The Kobuk River is one of the largest rivers in the Brooks Range and is renowned for its remote beauty, incredible fishing, and scenery. It is also designated as a Wild and Scenic River, which is the strongest level of protection for free-flowing rivers. By floating this river, we will experience the Alaskan wilderness in a whole new way and traverse and observe a large part of the pristine Arctic tundra.

As we navigate Alaska's rivers and mountains, we will be moving through some of the most pristine wilderness in the world. Few people will have walked where we will tread. In the spirit of the Wilderness Act of 1964 we will be traveling through, "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Our group recognizes the beauty of this idea. By traveling into the Gates of the Arctic, we are searching for the distillation of the purity of nature which has entranced us.

Author Barry Lopez put it best in his book Arctic Dreams when he said: "He ought to give himself up to a particular landscape in his experience; to look at it from as many angles as he can, to wonder upon it, to dwell upon it. He ought to imagine that he touches it with his hands at every season and listens to the sounds that are made upon it. He ought to imagine the creatures there and all the faintest motions of the wind. He ought to recollect the glare of the moon and the colors of the dawn and dusk."

This is the wilderness experience we seek by going to the Arctic.

II. Participant Qualifications

a. Participants' Graduation Date

Liam Reynolds, 2021
Nick Penzel, 2021
Skyler Stark-Ragsdale, 2021
Charlie Good, 2021
Charlie Robinson, 2021

b. Medical Certifications

Liam Reynolds, WFR expiration Jan. 17, 2020
 Nick Penzel, Enrolled in WFR through Nols, Half Block
 Charlie Robinson, WFR expiration July 2021
 Skyler Stark-Ragsdale, Enrolled in WFR through Aerie Backcountry Medicine, May 18, 2019
 Charlie Good, WFR expiration April 2, 2019. Enrolled in re-certification through Nols, 2/23/2019

Does your group have adequate experience?

Yes

d. Training Plan

Our group will need to be in good physical shape for our three-day trek into the Arrigetch. It will be the responsibility of each individual to maintain their strength over the summer through hiking, running, and climbing.

Climbing Training:

Possible Training Routes for Climbing

- The Casual Route in RMNP 5.10, 7 pitches, IV
- South Face of Petit Grepon, 5.8, 7 pitches, III
- Center Route Cynical Pinnacle, 5.9+, 3 pitches
- Various climbs on The Pericle and The Corinthian Column on Pikes Peak
- Cragging in locations such as Turkey Rocks, Garden of the Gods and more to maintain technical climbing ability.

Additionally, this fall, Charlie R and Nick have already done climbing trips with training for the Ritt Grant in mind. These include:

- -Exum Ridge, the Grand Teton, 5.5, 12 pitches, and other climbs in the Tetons.
- -Ellingwood Ledges, Crestone Needle, did 5.9 variation.
- -Trip to Indian Creek

Training for the river:

The five of us will do multiple runs down sections of rivers in Colorado which are comparable to the whitewater we expect in Alaska. The rivers we will run for training are as follows:

- In April of 2019, we will do a trip down the Royal Gorge, a twelve-mile section on the Arkansas River containing class II, III, and IV whitewater.
- In April of 2019 we will do a trip down Waterton Canyon, a class II-III section of Whitewater on the South Platte River in Colorado.
- In April of 2019, we will do a trip down Browns Canyon, an eight-mile section of class II-III whitewater on the Royal Gorge.
- Each of the five members will take a swiftwater rescue course through the ORC in April of 2019. The course will teach us how to safely assess and run whitewater, as well as the standard rescue procedure if someone is hypothermic, swimming towards a strainer, or stuck in a hydraulic among other things.

Other Possible River training trips:

- An overnight trip down Ruby-Horsethief on Colorado
- Shoshone, a class III-IV section of whitewater on the Colorado River.

Hiking Training Plan:

We will need to exemplify the picture of physical fitness to be adequately prepared for our expedition. Luckily, these five strapping young men are well on their way. Charlie Good, Liam, and Skylar will abstain from technical climbing. As such, our training regime will consist of weight lifting, stair mastering, running, short strength-building hikes, and longer third class hikes. A weekly routine of weight lifting (squats, deadlifts, lunges, step ups, etc.), stair mastering, and running will ensure that we have both the strength and endurance for the Arrigetch. Short strength-building hikes (e.g. Manitou Incline) will allow us to gauge our progress on a trail about as steep as any third class hike in the Arrigetch (~2000 ft/mile). While the weekly workout routine and Manitou incline hikes will prepare us physically, longer third class hikes will bolster our mental toughness and enhance our communication and safety skills while ascending non-technical peaks. Possible examples of such hikes include the Longs Peak, Mt Sneffels Southwest Ridge Route, Snowmass Mountain East Slopes Route, and the Crestone Peak South Face Route, among others. Training in Colorado will more than prepare us for the elevations we will encounter on this expedition, as our basecamp is at an elevation of 3800 feet and the tallest peaks in the Arrigetch are around 7,000 feet.

Additionally, our group is planning to do a 6 day trip into the Maze in Canyonlands as training for this trip. This is an ideal training trip because the Maze is incredibly remote, and also notoriously difficult to navigate. Additionally, we will access the Maze from the Needles district and use packrafts to cross the Colorado River, and float several miles downstream towards Spanish Bottom. This will allow us to help figure out our river systems and packing.

III. Expedition Logistics, Gear and Food

e. Travel Plan

Charlie G, Nick, Liam, and Skylar will start in Denver. All flights from Denver to Fairbanks go through Seattle. Charlie R will be in Seattle. We will all meet in Seattle and spend a night at Charlie R's house. The next day we will fly to Fairbanks and then on to Bettles. We will give ourselves a day to get our food and gear in order before flying from Bettles to Walker Lake with Brooks Range Aviation. We will give ourselves the entire day to all get to Walker Lake as we will need to take two bush planes. We will end our trip in Kobuk. We will fly commercial to Anchorage and then Charlie R. will fly to Seattle, while the rest of us fly to Denver.

The most dangerous aspect of our travel will be taking the float planes from Bettles to Walker Lake. Jay, is the owner and pilot for Brooks Range Aviation. He has spent thousands of flight hours in the Brooks Range and only hires experienced pilots. We have already spoken to him about our expedition and he is exceedingly knowledgeable. We will also be taking two planes into the Brooks Range as to not risk overloading a single plane. The Beaver and Cessna 185 are both tried and true bush planes. They have made similar journeys countless times with safe results.

e. Expedition Itinerary



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We will have a re-ration at Walker Lake before we embark on the river leg of the trip. We will store our gear near Walker Lake. All food will be stored in metal bear containers and river gear will be rapped in a tarp to protect from the elements. We will put this gear in a safe and well-protected place where it is not easily visible and hard for animals to drag away. All of our gear will be dropped at Walker Lake when we land, and we will re-ration when we return from the Arrigetch

Food Storage

To store food we will be using bear canisters approved by the National Park Service to keep out bears. The Bettles ranger station has bear containers and has never run out. However, we will call ahead when we land in Fairbanks and if the Bettles station is out of containers our backup is to get them from the Fairbanks ranger station. As these containers are not watertight, they will be lined with plastic bags, and when on the water, they will be in dry bags. Our cached food will be stored in medium metal containers, acquired from the Bettles ranger station. During our time in the Arrigetch, we will store food in smaller, packable, bear containers also obtained from the park service. At night and when we are away from camp, food will be stored in these containers and they will be placed several hundred feet from camp.

g. Food List

[Ritt Food.pdf](#) (36KB)

Uploaded 1/9/2019 12:10am by Nick Penzel

f. Equipment List

[Ritt GEAR List - Sheet1.pdf](#) (88KB)

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b. LNT Principles

Yes

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General:

All members of the team have years of experience implementing LNT principles. Charlie Good and Liam are certified LNT trainers. When we hike, we will hike on trail when one is established, and we will disperse when on the tundra to minimize impacts. Human waste will be buried at least 8 inches in the ground 200 feet from any rivers or trails, as per regulation. Any food that is stored will be in proper bear canisters. In order to mitigate the chances of bear interactions, all food and smelly items will remain 200 feet away from the campsite. All camps will have an established latrine.

River:

We will urinate and dispose of strained dishwater in the moving current of the Kobuk, away from our camp to avoid attracting bears. We will pack all other waste and trash out in our bear cans. The Kobuk River does not require a groover or fire pan.

Climbing:

We will practice modern climbing principles as established by organizations like the Access Fund. While we would prefer to leave nothing on climb, safety is our number one priority. We are prepared to leave slung webbing and passive protection behind if necessary for our safety.

IV. Risk Management

b. Objective Hazards

Wildlife:

Grizzly bears are one of our primary concerns with traveling into the Alaskan bush. Our group has familiarized ourselves with the proper procedure for traveling in Grizzly territory. Additionally, if the O.E.C. offers a bear class as they have in the past, we will take it. The two areas where we are most likely to encounter bears is during our trek from Walker Laker to our base camp in the Arrigetch and while camping along the Kobuk. Of these two situations, the trek from Walker Lake and back poses the greatest threat of bear encounter as we will be moving through forest and brush. While hiking in bear territory, our group will stay in a tight formation in which we are all within arm's length of each other. In the event of encountering a bear, we will form into a tight formation, get large, and make a lot of noise. If the bear charges, we will utilize bear spray. Each member of our group will have bear spray easily accessible at all times while hiking. Additionally, our bush pilot has suggested that we bring two small air horns with us. These have the benefit of being able to be used inside a tent and at night. Our pilot has also suggested bringing two handheld marine flares, which are the preferred bear deterrent for bear watching guides on the Alaskan coast and useful for signaling search and rescue as well.

All food will be stored in approved bear canisters which we can get from the Fairbanks or Bettles ranger station. We will cook at least 100 yards from our camp and cache all food and smelly products like toothpaste 100 yards away from camp as well. While traveling on the Kobuk, when possible we will cook dinner along the shore near our boats, then travel further downriver before making camp for the night. When possible, we will camp on one of the many large islands of the Kobuk, as we hope that this will mitigate the chance of a surprise encounter with a bear.

Weather:

The weather in the Brooks Range is extremely variable. It is not uncommon to have snow at any time during the summer, and there can be long periods of rain. Luckily, the Brooks Range does not generate electrical storms like in the Rockies in Colorado, so being caught in a thunderstorm is not as big of a concern. However, we will still be aware of our exposure and prepared to take shelter if we see a thunderstorm approaching. Our biggest weather concern is cold and rain. To mitigate this risk we will have proper warm clothes and rain gear. We will also limit our exposure when possible and evaluate group members status to ensure no one become hypothermic. When climbing, we will take special care that we are not caught on route during a storm and be conservative with weather when climbing. We will also take care not to climb on or bellow wet or freezing rock to avoid increased rockfall.

Glaciers:

While there are glaciers in the Arrigetch, all of our hiking and climbing routes avoid glaciers. We will not travel on glaciers.

Kobuk River:

The Kobuk Rivers has little information about it available online or in books. However, we have compiled the information we could from the internet. Additionally, our pilots from Brooks Range Air have provided us with good info about the stretch of river near Walker Lake. We also talked to Charlie G's boss from this summer, who led an expedition from Walker Lake to Kobuk in 2016. He provided us with very valuable information about camping, fishing, and confirmed that both rapids are easily portaged. Finally, we verified the location of the two rapids using google earth, and confirmed that they are the only sections of whitewater along this stretch.

Following our descent from the Arrigetch range, we will begin our 10-12 day journey down the Kobuk River—an 135-mile stretch beginning at the base of Walker Lake and ending at the town of Kobuk. This stretch has two notable rapids. A mile downstream on the Walker Lake Tributary, we will encounter the first rapid, a straightforward class III wavetrain. Twenty-two miles further downstream, we will confront the second notable section of whitewater, a short, class II drop. The rest of the Kobuk is predominately flatwater, and will not pose a challenge to our group.

We plan to run both rapids listed above. Skyler has worked for two years as a professional whitewater guide, Nick has paddled inflatable kayaks and rafts for four years and Charlie Good has spent a few years running class II and III rapids in both kayaks and rafts. While Liam and Charlie Robinson are less experienced on the water we have developed an in-depth plan to train them this spring (see Training Plan), and we feel that between training and our group's previous experience, we have sufficient experience to safely handle moderate whitewater.

Furthermore, each member of our team will complete a swift water rescue course offered through O.E.C. and downstream edge in early May which we will all register when it opens.

Finally, with the training under our belts, we will take serious precautions to mitigate risk when running both rapids on the Kobuk. We will have a GPS, as well as detailed printouts of the 135-mile section, so will know exactly when we will encounter both rapids. When we approach each, we will eddy-out and do an in-depth scout of potential hazards on the river, and identify the safest line through the rapid. Two people will walk around the rapid on foot, and set safety. To do so, both individuals will be dressed in full river gear (PFD, Drytop, etc), and will be holding a throw bag. In the event that someone falls out of their boat when running the rapid and requires a rescue via throw rope, both individuals will be ready to aid. After someone sets safety, Skyler, having the most experience, will run the rapid first. Once safely at the bottom, he will take the place of safety. The team members will walk back up the shore to join the

rest of the group at the top of the rapid. After the safeties returns to the group, Nick will run the rapid, and meet Skyler on shore at the bottom. After Nick, Charlie Good will follow, and then Liam, and then Charlie Robinson. In case either rapid is deemed too dangerous to run, there are clear trails that go around the whitewater. We will use these to portage our kayaks and gear.

The Kobuk River is glacially fed and consistently has sub-50°F water temperatures. This, in conjunction with the likelihood of rain and cold air temperatures, makes hypothermia a threat. Although we will have proper cold water gear (ie. dry tops, and splash pants/rainpants, neoprene booties, and gloves) in the event of a swim these may not be sufficient on their own. Thus we have planned out our campsites to be close to if not directly below the two rapids. In the case of one member of our team swimming, we will quickly make camp, start a fire, and be ready to address hypothermia and cold with proper treatment. Additionally, in the event of a team member swimming on flatwater, we will asses the situation and be prepared to make camp and treat for hypothermia.

Climbing Hazards

Rock Quality

Principally, we will climb only on routes that have been established and where information is available. Still, the Arrigetch is a remote and seldom traveled climbing destination, so other precautionary measures must be taken in order to prevent rockfall incidents. We will wear helmets at all times when traveling on steep rocky terrain, as well as using twin ropes for reduced risk of severing the connection between the leader and the belayer if a loose rock makes contact with the rope. Additionally, awareness of surroundings is one of the most important measures to take in avoiding rockfall. This means clear communication between climbers as well as with other parties on route. This also means building belays in positions out of the way of the fall line that rocks will take and constant evaluation of changes in rock quality as the route progresses.

General rock quality in the Arrigetch range is regarded as excellent, however, there can be crumbly or unstable rock anywhere, especially due to their remote and seldom-traveled nature. We have chosen routes that are reported to have sound rock and variations that avoid rotten rock.

On descents, we will always assess rappel anchor quality and back up anchors when needed. If the descent involves a technical scramble, we will be aware of rock quality and descent particularly loose sections one at a time.

Leader Fall

As the great Fred Beckey once said, "The leader's greatest protection is his/her ability to not fall". Although many advances have been made since the days of hemp ropes and home-forged pitons, we will be taking a similar approach to the matter as Fred. In such a remote place, any leader fall, even when gear holds, can pose great danger. For this reason, we will be sticking to climbing routes that are well within our max redpoint grade to avoid any situations that induce panic and further inability to hold onto the wall. Even with these precautions, a leader fall is always possible, so we will be as prepared as possible. This includes placing gear when we see fit and always communicating with the climber and giving an attentive belay.

Gear Failure

Charlie and Nick are both well versed in anchor building and gear placement. We both have experience placing gear and being taught by climbers of higher experience, along with professional training in climbing level II. Nick is currently an instructor in the Ritt Kellogg Climbing Gym and Charlie is a monitor with a pending instructor application. Additionally, we are both well read in climbing safety literature, having immersed ourselves in books like Climbing Anchors by John Long and the classic Freedom of the Hills series. That being said, rock quality does not always allow for the ideal placement, so we will be aware of the strength of our placements throughout climbs and adapt accordingly.

Evacuation Plan

Our two Inreaches and our Iridium satellite phone will allow us to communicate with Search and Rescue operations, our bush pilot and each other. For most of the trip, all five of us will be together. However, there will be some climbing days when Nick and Charlie R will be separated from Liam, Charlie G, and Skylar. On such days both groups will have an Inreach to communicate with each other. As well, both groups will be self-sufficient in the event that one group cannot return to camp. If we decide that we need a rapid evac, we will use our Inreaches to trigger an emergency

response. Furthermore, we will be able to use our satellite phone to give Search and Rescue more real-time information. If there is no threat to life or limb, we may decide that we can wait for a slower response. In this case, we will call our bush pilot and see if there is a nearby place we can be picked up. If we are still near Walker Lake, that will be our go-to pickup location. Charlie G has Search and Rescue experience so he will represent our group in the case of an emergency. He will also take lead on patient care and assessment.

Special Considerations: Climbing

Nick and Charlie R's climbing aspect will be the most exposed part of the trip. Once in the Arrigetch, we will establish several flat evac areas near where we will be climbing and record these coordinates. If we are able to get off of the climbs, these will be our go-to areas. One benefit of having our trip designed to have two groups while in the Arrigetch is that while climbing we will have a team who is safe and ready to help in the event of an emergency. Charlie R and Nick are familiar and have practiced with rope rescue techniques like pickoffs and escaping a belay. Nick has spoken with Ryan Hammes, who has offered to teach a rescue refresher in the spring, which Nick and Charlie with both attend.

Special Considerations: River

When on the Kobuk, there will be greater opportunity for self-evacuation if necessary using our boats. Our slow evacuation plan once below the second rapid can also involve a rescue from Kobuk or a lower village using motorized boats which can and do travel up the Kobuk. If necessary, we will contact local search and rescue to coordinate these efforts. Our fast evacuation plan is still by air through the National Parks Service or local search and rescue

We recognize that this region is known for frequent rain and inclement weather. This may slow down emergency response or delay evacuation. We will be adequately prepared to provide long term patient care, should we need to.

Special Preparedness

As Liam has a severe peanut allergy, we will not take any peanut products with us on the trip. He will review all of our food before it is packed. We will also carry 4 EpiPens with us that we will use in the extremely unlikely scenario that he has an anaphylactic reaction (doctors recommend carrying two at all times, so this is more than enough). Liam will have two EpiPens on him at all times, and the other two will be spread amongst the group/boats so in the event of losing gear on the river we will still have epinephrine. Every member of the expedition will have been trained in EpiPen protocol through their WFR courses, and Liam will review this before embarking on our trip. We will immediately implement the fast evacuation plan should Liam have an allergic reaction, but there will be absolutely no peanuts on the expedition.

Nick has been diagnosed with Celiac disease and is on a gluten-free diet. All meals will be cooked gluten free to ensure no cross-contamination. Nick has a very mild response to gluten exposure, and in the unlikely instance that he is exposed, only has very mild symptoms like a headache and fatigue. There are no necessary medical precautions that need to be taken other than Nick adhering to a gluten-free diet.

Charlie needs contacts or glasses to function properly, so he will bring the adequate amount of contacts needed to complete the trip, along with a pair of glasses in case there are any issues with his contacts.

e. Emergency Resources

We understand that the Alaskan backcountry is a rugged and unforgiving place, so we have an Iridium Satellite phone (which we will rent either from the Outdoor Rec Center at Colorado College or online) that we are prepared to use in the event of an emergency. Iridium Satellite phones have much better coverage in the Brooks Range and are highly recommended by our pilot. If it comes to it, we are prepared to call the following emergency resources:

Brooks Range Air Service: Pilot Jay and Judy Jespersen

Airport Rd Rte 1,

Bettles, AK, 99726

(800) 692 5443

(907) 692-5444

Wright Air Service

3842 University Ave South

Fairbanks, AK, 99709

(907) 474 0502

Bettles Ranger Station (Field Operations): This is a phone operating seven days a week from June 1 to Sep 30

Airport Rd,

Bettles, AK, 99726

(907) 692 5494

Arctic Interagency Visitor Center: Open in summer only

Dalton Hwy,

Fairbanks, AK, 99701

(907) 678 5209

Coldfoot Ranger Station

(907) 678 4227

Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station: Open in summer only

(907) 661 3520

Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center

101 Dunkel St Suite 110

Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 459 3730

Fairbanks Administrative Center

4175 Geist Rd

Fairbanks, AK, 99709

(907) 457 5752

Evansville Clinic (Bettles sits within the Evansville region)

P.O Box 26107

Bettles, AK 99726

(907) 692 5036

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital: Emergency Room

Located in Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

1650 Cowles St,

Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 452 8181

Golden Heart Emergency Physicians: Emergence Department Contact Number

1650, Cowles St,

Fairbanks AK 99701

(907) 458 5556

LifeMed Alaska: Provides 24/7 Emergency medical air evacuation from backcountry

3838 W. 50th Ave.

Anchorage, AK, 99502

(800) 478 5433

Emergency Communication

In the event of an emergency in the Alaskan backcountry, we will carry an Iridium Satellite Phone with us at all time. All members of the group will be able to competently use the phone and we will have the emergency numbers listed above with us. We will also have two Inreach devices available and carried with us when the satellite phone is too bulky to take, like when we are climbing.

V. Budget**Budget**

[RKMF Budget 2019.pdf](#) (58KB)

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Transportation

10502

Food and Fuel

1605

Maps and Books

0

Communication Device Rental

100

Permits/Fees

0

Gear Rentals

896

Total Funding Request

2500

Cost Minimization Measures

The remote nature of the Arrigetch and the Gates of the Arctic National Park provide a slew of logistical difficulties. While there were many options, we believe we've made this trip as practical and cost-effective as possible. We will be sending most of our food to Bettles 8 weeks in advance, as per the recommendation of Brooks Air Service. Food is many times cheaper in the lower 48 and, if we bought in Fairbanks, we'd have to pay even more weight overage fees on our Wright Air flight. However, we're going to each check a personal bag and our inflatable kayaks on all of our flights. Renting kayaks from the Ahlberg Gear House and checking them on flights is still cheaper than renting in Fairbanks and shipping them back post trip. The one kayak we own will be sent via USPS to Bettles and sent back to Colorado via USPS from Kobuk. We will be flying Southwest Airlines to Seattle as they provide us with two free checked bags per person. We will fly to Fairbanks from Seattle, as it would be dangerous and impractical to drive from Seattle to Fairbanks. Next we will fly to Bettles via Wright Air Service. They are the only commercial airline that flies to Bettles and they provide us with 40lbs of free baggage. Because we will not be returning to Bettles, we cannot rent a car, and none of our team members are over 25. The road to Bettles is also incredibly rough and has numerous water crossings without bridges. The Dalton Highway express is the only public transportation option. However, it could only take us to an airfield nearer Bettles where we would still need to pay for a private plane to fly us to Bettles. We will acquire bear cans from the Bettles ranger station, free of charge. Once in Kobuk, we will ship these cans back to Bettles. The cheapest way to get to Walker Lake is via Brooks Range Aviation. The other option would be to use Coyote Air. However, the prices they quoted us were much more expensive. We will be chartering a Cessna and a Beaver as they can carry enough weight to meet our needs and are cheaper than chartering the 9-person Otter. We will fly to Anchorage, from Kobuk, via Ravn Air. Ravn Air provides us with two free checked bags and is cheaper than chartering a flight with Wright Air. It is cheaper to fly from Kobuk to Anchorage than to Fairbanks. As well, it is less expensive to fly to Seattle from Anchorage than from Fairbanks. From Seattle to Denver, we will again fly SouthWest Airlines as they provide us with free checked bags. By flying our kayaks back to Colorado, rather than shipping, we don't have to pay rental fees for the weeks they'd spend in transit. We have one In Reach and will rent another, as well as a satellite phone, from the Ahlberg Gear House.

VI. Expedition Agreement

Expedition Agreement

