

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund – Proposal Evaluation

Proposal Title: _____

Applicants: _____

*previous grantee

Reviewer: _____

General Criteria

- Minimum 12 days in field
- Wilderness-based
- WFR of each team member will be current prior to trip departure
- Start of trip no later than 8 months after graduation
- Expedition team is made up of at least two CC students
- Expedition will occur in US or Canada
- First aid kit
- Maps

Proposal Completeness

- Emergency contact information
- Insurance
- Medical release
- Applicant questionnaire
- Relevant experience resume
- References provided
- Certificates and other proof of training
- Participant acknowledgement and assumption of risks & release and indemnity agreement
- Ritt Kellogg Fund Agreement
- Complete proposal as per web site

Proposal Elements

Relevant Experience of Team Members

- Members have relevant experience in the activity
- Members have relevant experience in the venue
- Members have relevant experience in backcountry conditions, including inclement weather
- Members have relevant hazard evaluation skills
- Members have taken additional classes or training for the activity
- Members have relevant decision-making/route finding experience
- Overall, team members will solidify skills on the expedition rather than “cut their teeth”
- References and certifications

Risk Management Plan

- Proposal identifies thorough list of hazards associated with the activity

- Proposal identifies thorough list of hazards associated with the venue
- Proposal identifies thorough hazard evaluation plan
- Proposal identifies sensible steps to avoid incidents
- Proposal identifies a sound management plan if incidents occurs
- Proposal includes reliable emergency communication plan
- Proposal includes well-planned emergency evacuation plan
- Proposal lists the first aid kit contents which are appropriate for activity, venue, size of group, and participant health conditions

Logistical Considerations

- Proposal states dates of expedition and total days in field
- Proposal includes reasonable travel plans to and from the trail head
- Proposal details a sensible, day-by-day itinerary including elevations, distances, and camps
- Proposal provides a detailed route description, including maps
- Proposal provides minimum impact techniques
- Proposal provides cultural considerations (if applicable)
- Proposal provides appropriate gear list for activity and venue
- Proposal provides appropriate food list for activity and venue and considers re-rations
- Proposal includes a service component

COVID-19 Preparedness

- Proposal includes an analysis of the current COVID situation in the proposed location
- Proposal includes a realistic pre-expedition plan for reducing COVID likelihood
- Proposal includes realistic travel considerations
- Proposal includes an appropriate planned response for managing COVID in the field

Budgetary Considerations

- Proposal provides itemized budget
- Proposed budget does not include capital equipment purchases
- Proposal includes reasonable travel costs
- Expedition cap per person is \$1,500 (12+ days) or \$2,500 (21+ days)

Reviewer's Conclusion

Should the expedition be funded? _____

What are the total funds requested by the team? _____

How much funding do you believe the team should be awarded? _____

Is anyone on the team requesting additional financial support for a WFR course? _____

RKMF Expedition Summary

EXPEDITION NAME: Packrafting the Alatna

DATE OF EXPEDITION: 8/7/2024-8/21/2024

EXPEDITION MEMBER DETAILS:

Team Member	Graduation		WFR Cert
Jack Griffith	2024	X	01/2025 Swiftwater Resc.
Lia Kelly	2024		12/2024 Swiftwater Resc.
Sam Asher	2024		01/2025 Swiftwater Resc.
Maren Greene	2024		Scheduled 6/5- 6/9 2024 Swiftwater Resc.

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST: \$10,000

MAP OF ROUTE: <https://caltopo.com/m/K1AHJ>

LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS & COMMUNICATION TOOLS:

Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center (FAPLIC) (year-round) 101 Dunkel Street Suite 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 459-3730

Arctic Interagency Visitor Center (Coldfoot): 907-678-5209 (Summer Only) - Prior to departure for the field, we will make sure to check in with and make park officials aware of our travel plans.

Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station: 907-661-3520 (Summer Only)

Medical Resources

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
1650 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701 907 452 8181

Note: Most evacuations from Gates of the Arctic are contracted out via private air taxi companies, I have included some of the most popular companies below in the event of the need for auxiliary contacts.

Brooks Range Aviation 907 692 54444

Coyote Air, LLC 907 687 3993

Arrowhead Outfitters, LLC 907 746 7744



Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Registration

Registration No. SV7N-P67L8
Submitted Jan 24, 2024 8:15am by Jack Griffith

Registration

Aug 21, 2023-
Jan 24, 2024

Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund
RKMF Expedition Grant 2024 Group Application

This is the group application for a Ritt Kellogg Memorial Fund Expedition Grant. In this application you will be asked to provide important details concerning your expedition.

In addition to this Group Application, **each team member must submit an Individual Application.** All Group Applications and Individual Applications must be received by 1st Wednesday of Block 5 at noon.

For more information, example applications, proposal writing tips, and further guidance, please visit
<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/rittkelloggfund/grants/expedition-grants/overview.html>

If you have any questions please email the office of Outdoor Education
outdoored@coloradocollege.edu

**Waiting for
Approval**
Jan 24, 2024
8:15am

Participant



Jack Griffith



Expedition Summary

What is the name of your proposed expedition?

Above the Arctic Circle: Packrafting the Alatna

If you have an alternate name for your expedition, please list it here.

Above the Arctic Circle: Packrafting the Alatna

Briefly describe the objectives of your expedition.

It is worth noting that the scope of this trip lends itself to the generation of a list of goals that is miles long. Through the planning and execution of an expedition like that we have proposed, we intend to grow not only in a technical, safety and proficiency sense but also in a sense that encourages reflection, camaraderie and personal/interpersonal growth. Not only have our skills already grown via the generation of such a sound plan (this one) but we intend to push ourselves to wring the most juice out of this trip as possible. With all that being

said, a list of more specific goals is laid out below.

- Safely and effectively travel for 21 days on the Alatna River and surrounding mountains whilst implementing our previous outdoor expertise.
- Gain familiarity with an area never previously traveled by any group members while increasing comfort navigating and recreating safely in the backcountry.
- Plan a route within participants capabilities whilst providing opportunities for growth in both aquatic and terrestrial means of travel.
- Prepare measures to be used in the event of an evacuation event and ensure all group members familiarity with safety protocols and medical procedure.
- Encounter the beauty and inherent volatility of the natural environment in which we plan to travel and approach it in a manner that is both responsible and markedly prepared.
- Maximize efficiency in both group and personal dynamics. Items included are efficiency of travel while maintaining enjoyment, improving personal packing procedures to facilitate land/water and water/land transitions.
- Travel along our proposed route while adhering to daily mileage and camp goals while also making time to appreciate and bask in the splendor of the countryside through which we will be traveling.
- Maintain an appreciation for the Koyukon, Kobuk, Selawik and Nunamiut communities who have traditionally inhabited the landscape through which we will be traveling.
- Gain intimacy with the Gates of the Arctic Wilderness and relish the beauty and wonder that comes with floating the Alatna from source to mouth.
- Maintain a deep respect for the rugged and austere nature of the landscape while keeping safety foremost in our minds at all times.
- To build trust and deepen our friendship through a challenging yet safe backcountry expedition.

Briefly describe the location of the expedition.

Throughout the majority of our trip we will be traveling through the Brooks mountain range of Alaska's northern interior along the Alatna river. Our trip and the river on which we plan to travel will begin in the depths of Gates of the Arctic National Park before slowing down in the foothills of the Brooks range as we draw closer to Allakaket. All told, the route should provide a variety of landscapes for enjoyment including glaciated mountain valleys, vast river basins and rugged peaks.

Gates of the Arctic National Park, where our trip is expected to begin, is a 8,472,505 acre park situated in the Brooks range at the northern tip of the Rocky Mountains. The park is characterized by soaring mountain peaks and vast drainages with five Wild and Scenic Rivers included within its bounds. Our expedition will ensure the experience of some of the best the park has to offer as we travel from the headwaters of the Alatna through the cirques of the Arrigetch peaks and to the terminus of the Alatna in Allakaket.

During the second half of our trip, the landscape mellows and peaks become hills as we enter the flatlands of the Alatna and Koyukuk rivers. As we get closer to Allakaket, swiftwater will turn slow as the river begins to meander through the Helpmejack and Alatna Hills on our approach to the mouth. Contained within this area are native communities of Koyukon Athabascans and Kobuk, Selawik, and Nunamiut Eskimo people who have existed for thousands of years on the resources the landscape has to offer. Allakaket, the terminus of our expedition, continues to support such communities and the land continues to provide for the people who have historically inhabited it.

Ultimately, the area through which we will be traveling is perfectly suited to challenge and enhance our skills as recreationalists. We will make sure to maintain a healthy respect for the inherent risks as well as a reverence for the people who have historically made this place their home.

Date that travel to the expedition will start.

Aug 5, 2024

Date that your team will enter the field.

Aug 7, 2024

Date that your team will exit the field.

Aug 27, 2024

Date that the last team member gets to their home location.

Aug 29, 2024

How many days will your team be in the backcountry?

21

How does your planned destination provide a "wilderness experience," and how will your expedition offer solitude and promote self-reliance and grit?

Gates of the Arctic is the second largest National Park in the United States, a fact that will be made evident almost immediately upon reaching the field. Characterized by glaciated valleys and towering peaks, it is entirely understandable how it might feel diminutive in a space like Gates of the Arctic. It is our intention to keep in mind our relative insignificance when traveling through a landscape so simultaneously astounding and austere. Paired with the impressive scope of our proposed undertaking, it seems obvious how this wilderness area can provide such a unique outdoor experience.

Due to the nature of the park through which we will be traveling, it is unlikely that we will come across many fellow recreationalists. This fact, paired with the location of the park above the arctic circle and several plane rides away from the largest metropolitan area will contribute to a sense of isolation and wonder that we seek. Furthermore, our travel method along the Alatna will provide a unique means of experiencing the backcountry by leading us through the landscape in a way that is entirely natural. Guided by a river that determines its path with no regard for humanity will provide an experience unparalleled in its rawness.

Though true that it is unlikely we will encounter other travelers while moving along our proposed route, the length of our travel does necessitate the use of a re-ration. Though the absence of people can and does certainly contribute to traditional conceptions of a "wilderness" experience, our trip is not completely devoid of outside human interaction. With that being said, the remote character and duration of our route should encourage encompassing intimacy with the landscape, another tenant of what it means to be in the "wilderness".

While it is commonly known that the uses and designations of "wilderness" by largely Western societies has been fraught with nuance since its conception, it is still important to mention the significance of its implications. While seemingly unpeopled and isolated, Gates of the Arctic has been used for thousands of years as a home and sanctuary for indigenous communities traditionally housed there. The Koyukon Athabascans, Kobuk, Selawik, and Nunamiut Eskimo have traditionally subsisted on and conserved a land that has, in Western thought, been determined "too rugged" for use as a productive landscape. This designation, though positive in the sense that it has encouraged conservation, and diminutive in its acknowledgement of indigenous history, plays an important role in how we will conceive the "wilderness" through which we plan to travel. Ultimately, upholding this reverence for the peoples that continue to make their lives here and a wonder as we enter this space for this first time will help to preserve and expand upon our preconceived notions of wilderness.

Participant Qualifications

Expedition team member information

Jack Griffith - May 2024

WFR Expiration: Jan 25 2025

Lia Kelly - May 2024
WFR Expiration: Dec 31 2024

Sam Asher - May 2024
WFR Expiration: Jan 25 2025

Maren Greene - May 2024
Desert Mountain School June 5-June 9

Jack Griffith - Swiftwater Rescue, November 2022. Hundreds of miles of experience both privately and commercially boating (see personal application).

Lia Kelly - Swiftwater Rescue will be completed April 27/28 2024 at Whitewater Workshop in Golden, Colorado.

Sam Asher - Swiftwater Rescue will be completed April 27/28 2024 at Whitewater Workshop in Golden, Colorado.

Maren Greene - Swiftwater Rescue will be completed April 27/28 2024 at Whitewater Workshop in Golden, Colorado.

Does your team have adequate experience?

Yes

Describe your team's training plan to solidify or improve technical skills, physical conditioning, and team dynamics prior to the start of the expedition.

Skills Improvement:

Spring 2024: In order to gain familiarity with the packrafts in which we plan to travel, we expect to go on several flat and swiftwater paddling trips in the Spring 2024 semester. Included will be forays to Waterton (class III) canyon and northern sections of the Colorado River (I-II) to develop a proficiency in swiftwater travel (3-5 trips expected). Packed boats will be made sure to be demoed on these days to better understand what it means to maneuver while loaded.

All participants are expected to seize every opportunity to get on the water when the potential arises to facilitate utmost preparation for our trip into the backcountry.

All members intend, whether separately or jointly, to continue their history of outdoor recreation (a history that has prepared them for such an undertaking) in the events leading up to the trip in order to maintain and touch up on existing and perhaps new skills.

Navigation Education: Traveling along the proposed route will pose navigational challenges, especially during our stop in the Arrigetch, that are necessary to prepare for in advance. Along with the following training plan, it is worth noting that all participants have a strong experience recreating in remote backcountry environments (vis-a-vis experiences through NOLS, HMI and others).

Throughout the spring and summer, on all water, skiing, and hiking trips we will work to maintain our orienteering skills via implementation of landmark identification, bearing finding, and navigational decision making. Prior to our departure, we will routinely brief on the proposed route, potential areas of risk, obstacles to be encountered and auxiliary plans in the event of plan changes.

Fitness: Traveling by foot and by boat in Alaska requires a high level of physical fitness. We will maintain a training plan that includes continuous cardiovascular exercise through the spring and summer in the gym and during our normal recreational activities.

While all participants have a solid base of athleticism prior to submission of our proposal, it will be important to maintain and increase strength that will be demanded of us in the backcountry. In order to facilitate the maintenance of strength and endurance, we anticipate multi-weekly trips to the gym (3-4) while participating in exercises that will help to combat fatigue and encourage endurance. Additionally, paddling requires core, arm, and back strength. We intend to target these areas by not only training on the water but also via the implementation of weight exercises when at the gym.

Expedition Logistics, Equipment, and Food

Briefly describe how each expedition member will travel from home to the trailhead and back again.

Travel day A (August 5th, 2024): Participants will fly from their home airports to Fairbanks, Alaska on August 5th 2024. Members will convene at the airport, make sure that all gear is accounted for and stay at the airport hotel to await departure to Coldfoot the next morning.

Travel day B (August 6th, 2024): Board the Dalton Highway Express at 6:00 a.m. from our hotel and disembark in Coldfoot at roughly 2:00 p.m. and assess gear for final departure to Gaedeke Lake.

Travel day C/Field day 1 (August 7th, 2024): Board our bush plane early the morning of the 7th, disembark at Gaedeke lake and begin our trek southbound toward Allakaket.

Travel day D (August 28th, 2024): Wake up in Allakaket and await the arrival of our bush plane back to Coldfoot. Weather permitting, our flight should get us in the late morning to Coldfoot where we can anticipate the arrival of the Dalton Highway Express at roughly 3:00 p.m. We will board the DHE and arrive in Fairbanks at midnight.

Travel day E (August 29th, 2024): Group members will take their respective flights back home to wherever they are headed.

Jack to Seattle, WA

Lia to Seattle, WA

Sam to Baltimore, MD

Maren to Denver, CO

Upload a detailed day-by-day itinerary, beginning when the first team member leaves home.

[Alatna River Float Itener....pdf](#) (108KB)

Uploaded 1/22/2024 3:20pm by Jack Griffith

Please paste a URL to your complete digital expedition map.

<https://caltopo.com/m/K1AHJ>

If you have plans to re-ration during the expedition, describe the plan below

Re-supply will be carried out via Brooks Range Aviation on the morning of day 11 (August 17th) at Circle Lake. Contained in the float plane resupply will be our rations which have been split prior to the trip. We will continue

downstream later that day.

Describe how you will protect your food from wildlife.

Gates of the Arctic is home to both black and brown bears. To safely protect our food from bears we will make sure to store all food in Ursack tear resistant storage bags. These will prove advantageous over the course of our trip as they are more compatible with on foot and packraft travel. Ursack bear bags are available for rent through the Ahlberg Gear House, these bear resistant bags suit the demands of packrafting more so than traditional options like bear canisters due to their compressibility.

In order to minimize the risk of food related bear encounters our trip will strictly adhere to the National Park services Bear Safety in Alaska's National Parkland guidelines. When not in use all smellables, including food, sunscreen, chapstick..etc will be stored in our Ursack bear bags. Meal preparation and cooking will take place at least 100 yards from camp. Overnight, food will be stored at least 100 yards from both our camp and meal preparation area.

As is standard practice in bear country we will be sure to keep camp clean of all microtrash and smellables. All smellables will be returned to Ursacks at night where they will then be placed a suitable distance (at least 100 yards) away.

Upload a detailed food list with budget numbers and show hoe it meets the caloric needs of the expedition.

[Ritt Trip Budget.pdf](#) (167KB)

Uploaded 1/24/2024 5:43am by Jack Griffith

Upload a thorough equipment list.

[Alatna River Float Equipm....pdf](#) (58KB)

Uploaded 1/24/2024 4:48am by Jack Griffith

Upload a first aid kit list.

[Alatna River Float Firstpdf](#) (40KB)

Uploaded 1/24/2024 4:48am by Jack Griffith

How will you limit and leverage your impact on this trip?

We aim to limit our impact through responsible planning techniques as demonstrated within this grant. This includes making conscious decisions about how we might limit our impact in advance, such as strict adherence to LNT principles during our travels. These are enumerated here:

Plan Ahead and Prepare: With this proposal, we are responsibly planning our trip. We have previously researched wildlife concerns, emergency evacuations, and hazards in the park.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces: When camping, we will avoid crushing plants and try to camp on dirt patches or stream banks.

Dispose of Waste Properly: Human waste will be disposed of according to LNT standards (catholes 6-8 inches deep, 4-6 inches wide, 200+ feet from water, trails, and camp).

Leave What You Find: We will take only photographs, many photographs.

Minimize Campfire Impacts: We plan to have small fires to keep warm and dry out belongings while paddling. We will build and contain fires to rocky surfaces.

Respect Wildlife: Mindful food storage and observing wildlife from afar minimizes our impact on their beautiful lives.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors: Leaving areas as we found them preserves experiences for future visitors.

Where we aim to build more nuance into these principles is considering our carbon impact and food choices throughout our travel. It is a true challenge to adequately provide necessary nutrition for group members without significant animal input, but we aim to cut significant red meat from our planning in order to limit our already substantial carbon impact that includes transcontinental flights. LNT principles do a substantial job in describing a vague ideal of how to behave within a natural area, yet we would like to further consider how cultural and historical actors play into this trip. While in Gates of the Arctic, we will be on land that has historically been subsisted upon by Koyukon Athabascans and Kobuk, Selawik, and Nunamiut Eskimo. We are

enthralled to visit these public lands and further enthused by the lessons we aim to take away but would like to acknowledge the contested nature of public and private lands within this country. We will travel with utmost respect and do so by familiarizing ourselves with the histories of the land which we are privileged to recreate upon.

To build further upon the idea of privilege, we recognize together that, our backgrounds notwithstanding, we are all privileged to take part in such an incredible opportunity. It is for this reason that we aim to fully leverage the impact that this expedition will impart upon us. The skills gained from this experience will help us continue enjoying the natural world with the utmost care for safety. We all take ownership of this trip plan and will execute the project with an equal commitment to the safety and happiness of all team members. Taking ownership means that all of us will perform our specific roles to the best of our ability while simultaneously caring for the group as a whole. As the length of backcountry trips increases, it becomes increasingly necessary to have a cohesive team to handle complex situations, especially if a situation is medical in nature. This trip will allow us to form a tight bond through our collective experience as we traverse this expansive wilderness that will defy our expectations in ways expected and not. This expedition will allow us each to develop our own sense of community, adventure, and stewardship toward the places in which we recreate.

Together, we all share a passion for navigating and recreating safely in the backcountry. As we packraft the Alatna river, we hope to experience the power that this glacial landscape conveys. This drainage crafts its own valleys and basins according to their geologic constraints in ways that influence the living factors present in intricate ways. As we traverse the river bottoms and Arrigetch creek area, we hope to be granted further insight into the history of this place that transcends each of us. As a glacially changing landscape, Gates of the Arctic will inspire us just as anyone who has seen a wonder such as glaciers in action, a rivers carving might and the will of the weather. All deeply influenced by the impacts of climate change and with that we will keep in mind how climate change is altering the historic norms of the area in which we travel.

Risk Management

What are the main objective hazards of the expedition?

Backcountry Setting: Traveling in such a remote area as Gates of the Arctic National Park carries increased risk as a result of its distance from rescue resources. Group decision making and careful risk management will be thoughtfully considered for the duration of the trip in an effort to reduce the chances of something going awry. Additionally, we will be carrying communication devices (satellite phone and garmin inReach) that allow for rapid contact with rescue administrators if needed. We also plan to report our trip to the Arctic Interagency Center upon arrival in Coldfoot as well as leaving our plan and series of emergency contacts with a trusted individual who will contact authorities if deemed necessary.

Swiftwater: Due to the nature of a packrafting trip, we will be spending the majority of our time on moving water which carries inherent and significant risk. Among these are issues associated with fatigue, cold water shock, hydraulic features, fast current and others. These will be enumerated below and discussed at length. In addition to addressing such concerns we will wear protective equipment including personal flotation devices (PFDs), helmets, cold weather paddling gear and splash accessories necessary for maintaining comfort.

Cold water shock: The risk of swimming in rivers above the arctic circle presents challenging factors to maintaining comfort and safety (the Alatna consistently runs close to 40°F with average high temperatures rarely exceeding 70°F. Included is the risk of cold water exposure and the ensuing conditions and ailments. In order to reduce the risk of cold water shock we will make sure to dress appropriately by including base layers (skin tight, synthetic, moisture wicking), insulating layers (fleece, variable thickness), outershell (splash jacket or dry top), neoprene accessories (pants, booties, gloves), PFDs and helmets. All items will help to mitigate the risk of hypothermia induced by cold water shock. In the event of shock, we will remove the team member from cold clothing and begin warming via dry clothing, hot food and drink and any additional comforts that may be required.

Strainers/sweepers/sieves: While sieves are highly uncommon on a river like the Alatna, the risk strainers and sweepers are not and thus worth mentioning. Strainers, sieves and sweepers present obstacles (made of

driftwood, rocks and overhanging trees, respectively) that allow water to flow through and people to not. To avoid the risk of encountering and swimming into sweepers we will spend time in boats (at our SRT training and private boating experiences) to better identify such obstacles and practice avoiding them. In the event that we do encounter such obstacles on the water we will (1) work tirelessly to avoid them, (2) implement SRT procedure that requires the climbing over strainers/sieves/sweepers if encountered in the water and (3) portage/line boats through river sections that are too choked to navigate safely. In addition, we will be sure to carry a pin kit (listed in gear) in the event of a boat sticking on a river obstacle.

Foot entrapment: Foot entrapment involves the loss of oxygen via the pinning of the airways underwater by current (as a result of stuck feet). To avoid foot entrapment we will be sure to brief on SRT procedure (swimming with feet up and eyes downstream) prior to embarking.

Loss of consciousness: If swimming, it is not unlikely to imagine a scenario where an individual hits their head. In order to reduce the risk of a head impact having consequential impacts on the outcome of the trip, we will make sure to bring and wear helmets at all times while paddling.

Fatigue: Paddling long days can induce fatigue in even the strongest individuals. For this reason we have included layover days throughout our proposal that will encourage recuperation in the event of exhaustion. Furthermore, our meal allotments have granted surplus calories daily that will allow for complete refueling whenever required. It is also worth mentioning that the route somewhat eases us into paddling long days which will facilitate the transition to backcountry travel.

Loss of gear: In order to make sure that no gear is lost in the event of upset packrafts, we will make sure to fully secure all externally mounted gear. This will be done with cam straps, voile straps and any other bits and bobs that might prove useful for security of belongings. Any items that are non-duplicates will be housed within the interior of the packraft to reduce the risk of loss in case of an overturned raft.

Temperature fluctuations: We will be exposed to hot temperatures, cold temperatures, and cold water throughout this trip. We ensure that clothing and sleeping gear are within dry-safe bags in order to ensure proper comfort in these conditions. Though traveling in August, temperatures range dramatically (63 avg high, 45 avg low). Care will be taken to monitor exhaustion and overexertion. We will not hesitate to take breaks when any group member requires for delayering, layering, watering up, staying fed, or simply resting as our trip travels a variety of terrain. We will ensure that over-exhaustion and heat-related illnesses are not experienced by maintaining adequate hydration and supplementing electrolytes. This watchfulness includes looking out for our group members and ensuring that all are adequately caring for themselves – we will check in as a group throughout the day to ensure hydration and food have met everyone's needs.

Human Judgment: Traveling for extended periods in the backcountry poses many risks. Exhaustion, both physically and mentally, is an incredibly likely scenario, especially after numerous days of physical exertion. For this reason, we will monitor each other's physical and emotional condition on a regular basis and ensure that we are both hydrating and staying on top of our energy levels. A separate risk assessment that we must take is to address the role of human heuristic traps. These heuristic traps occur when we make mental shortcuts to understand situations. Rather than following gut judgment, we will be deliberate in our decision-making. We will be sure to address the areas where we, as a group, will need to be vigilant. This vigilance includes not overemphasizing any individual's experiences to avoid an 'expert halo'. Further, we will be sure to remain dynamic during changing conditions and not be stuck within the previous plan commitment.

Cutoff Time: To practice risk management and emergency preparedness, we will designate team member's parent Andie Griffith to alert emergency management by August. 30th at 9:00 PM AKT. We will contact Andie via sat phone if we will be late in leaving the trip. Her contact information is listed in the emergency contact resources list.

Wildlife: A variety of creatures make Gates of the Arctic their home and considering their preferences typically makes backcountry travel easier. Foremost in our mind will be the threat of grizzly bears. Each member of the trip will make sure to carry bear spray, on their person, at all times during the entirety of the trip. This will make the opportunity for rapid deployment possible in the event of an unwanted bear encounter. We will also make

sure to adhere to Leave No Trace procedures when eating and cooking in the backcountry so as to minimize the chance of a bear looking for a snack. All kitchens and food storage areas will be located sufficient distance away (see wildlife considerations, above) to further minimize risk. All food except that to be immediately eaten will be stored in Ursack animal proof bags. This will also help to minimize the risk of mice and other smaller critters sneaking into our precious food stores. Finally, we plan to travel through bear territory loudly so as to make our presence known to our bear friends and prevent surprises.

Mosquitoes: Mosquitoes present a variety of challenges in that they can lead to a variety of illnesses and ailments if left untreated and/or if developed into open wounds (via scratching, abrasion, or other unpleasant mode). In order to minimize the risk of illness associated with bug bites (open or not) we will wear clothing that covers as much open skin as deemed necessary (depending on level of peskiness). This includes long socks, pants, long sleeves, mosquito hoods and tent flys to protect from mosquitoes whenever required. Additionally, we plan to bring plenty of hydrocortisone cream for treatment in case any itching becomes unbearable.

Weather: This part of Gates of the Arctic receives a decent amount of rainfall in the summer months (12-16 inches, annually) and thus it is likely that our trip will be a wet one. In order to minimize discomfort from rain and weather incidents we will (1) insulate properly when required, (2) wear shells and rain protection that maintains dryness and (3) use all appropriate times for drying of clothing and maintenance of core temperature. All sleeping arrangements will come with rain protection and efforts will be made to camp in locations that are protected from wind and rain, whenever possible. Furthermore, all efforts will be made (via the use of dry bags, rain tarps and pack covers) to maintain dry clothing so as to maintain comfort.

Swollen river: Due to the likelihood of rainfall at this time of year, it is not unlikely that we will see river level changes due to rainfall. To mitigate the risk of losing equipment in the event of an overnight swelling of the river, we will make sure to remove our equipment a suitable distance away (and up) from the river to reduce potential for homemade flotsam. While on the river, there is not much we can do to mitigate the loss of gear as it will all be strapped to our boats (and thus our person) already. Nevertheless, upon noticing rising flows we will make sure to monitor our downriver progress to maintain appropriate speed to camp. We will also make sure to maintain awareness of the possible introduction of new driftwood into the river system as drainages begin to wash out.

Water/food borne illness: The risk of getting sick from contaminated drinking water and/or food is real if proper precaution is not taken. Firstly, we will work to maintain high cleanliness standards whenever in camp by providing soap and/or hand sanitizer before preparing food, eating food and using the bathroom. We will also make sure to pack our food in watertight/airtight containers to minimize the risk of contamination via unwanted agents or mold.

Climate change: Climate change is certainly worth noting when considering travel above the arctic circle. Due to increasingly unusual weather and temperature patterns it is not unlikely that our main mode of travel, the Alatna, will be affected. In the event that the river flows are (1) too strenuous or (2) too low to facilitate safe travel downstream, we will reassess our proposal. It is also possible that increasingly extreme temperatures could lead to unexpected conditions while in the field. We will continue to monitor the unwanted effects of climate change on the area through which we will be traveling and monitor our plans accordingly if necessary.

Personal Morale: Prolonged backcountry travel is lonely and can thus have negative impacts on mental health. In an attempt to combat any discomfort stemming from the nature of the objective, we will try to remain as transparent and communicative as possible. We recognize that this proposal is much a mental undertaking as physical and aim to keep that knowledge present throughout the trip to avoid "personal morale" problems. Support, to the best of our abilities, will be provided if and when need be and alternatives considered if need be.

Group Dynamics: The duration of this trip is conducive to both private and public challenges that could pose threats to the building of a positive experience. To mitigate risks associated with group dynamics we have designated the route to have mileage within reason for daily travel. Furthermore, we plan to leave space both

before embarking from and when arriving at camp to allow for discussion and reflection in regard to the events of the day. Finally, we will work diligently to maintain high morale and monitor each other's condition to maintain positive group dynamics. We recognize that the maintenance of positive group dynamics is key to prolonged backcountry travel and will remain aware of them as we make our way toward Allakaket.

Cuts/Infection: Cuts are potentially our most dangerous hazard since infection can quickly and easily take hold and cause serious life-threatening problems. To prevent infection we will promptly clean any wounds with our irrigation syringe filled with a saline solution. Next we will apply a triple antibiotic ointment, gauze, and wrapping or bandage depending on the location of the cut. These are the most important steps that immediately follow an injury. Prompt care is crucial to smooth healing. We will continue to monitor cuts by changing bandages and reapplying ointment continually as needed. We will be diligent in our observation of cuts for signs of infection such as swelling, change in temperature, pain, red streaking, and worrisome discharge from the wound.

Describe your self-evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.

Traveling through a remote backcountry setting such as the one we have proposed holds inherent risk and as such we will plan accordingly in the event that an evacuation is necessitated. If an event arises that requires resources not available to us in the field, we will make haste to contact emergency authorities (listed below) via the use of our Garmin inReach/satellite phone. Considering the requirement for rapid evacuation, we will activate all SOS functions available to us and maintain communication avenues with rescue services to facilitate efficiency and ease.

Gates of the Arctic is an incredibly remote part of northern Alaska and as such helicopter evacuation is an unlikely option for retrieval. With that being said, the area in which we are traveling is frequented by remote explorationists and a number of options for float/bush plane landing are feasible. From here we will delineate evacuation routes based on days:

Again, note that the lower portions of the river are infrequently traveled and have thus infrequently required evacuation efforts. With that being said, potential lakes and flatwater river segments are listed as alternatives but ultimately consultation with rescue authorities, in the event of an evacuation, will yield the most plausible retrieval location.

Days 1-3: Hike back or begin hiking back toward Gaedeke Lake where we will await a bush/float plane retrieval.

Days 4-10: Make progress towards Circle Lake (where we will be for our resupply on day 10 anyway) where a float plane can land for evacuation.

Day 11-12: Return to Takahula lake for retrieval by float plane upon alerting authorities of our need for evacuation.

Day 13-15: Continue downstream or remain at the Malamute Forks area to await bush plane retrieval. From this point on, the river is characterized by large, landable gravel bars that could grant feasible landing potential. This is noted in our route and has been confirmed with the ranger station in Bettles, AK.

Days 16-18: The Helpmejack lakes represent the most commonly used means of access to this area. We will likely begin returning toward this area (Helpmejack lakes) in the event of an evacuation during these days. It is possible that authorities will advise for a landing on the river or at a number of infrequently used sites but this will require consultation.

Days 18-21: Consult evacuation assistance authorities about the potential for a landing either (a) on the river or (b) via identifying gravel bars as potential landing sites. Assuming this is not possible (highly unlikely based on the character of the river and the number of lakes in the area), we will continue paddling out to Allakaket with haste to get assistance.

List the emergency and rescue resources available in the vicinity of your expedition.

Backcountry permits are not required for traveling (either on foot or via packraft) in Gates of the Arctic National Park. With that being said, we intend to submit our trip itinerary to park officials at the Coldfoot Arctic Interagency Center as well as leave with the air taxi operators that will assist our transport. Search initiation will not begin until requested by a friend or family member.

Should we need emergency assistance during our trip we will be equipped with one Iridium sat phone rented through the Ahlberg Gear House. In addition we will have a Garmin inReach mini.

Gates of the Arctic National Park:

Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center (FAPLIC) (year-round)
101 Dunkel Street Suite 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 459-3730

Arctic Interagency Visitor Center (Coldfoot): 907-678-5209 (Summer Only) - Prior to departure for the field, we will make sure to check in with and make park officials aware of our travel plans.

Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station: 907-661-3520 (Summer Only)

Medical Resources

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
1650 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701
907 452 8181

Note: Most evacuations from Gates of the Arctic are contracted out via private air taxi companies, I have included some of the most popular companies below in the event of the need for auxiliary contacts.

Brooks Range Aviation
907 692 54444

Coyote Air, LLC
907 687 3993

Arrowhead Outfitters, LLC
907 746 7744



List the emergency communication devices you will be carrying on your expedition. If none, explain why.

Should we need emergency assistance during our trip we will be equipped with one Iridium sat phone rented through the Ahlberg Gear House. In addition we will have a Garmin inReach mini.

COVID-19 Preparedness

What is the current COVID-19 situation in the area where you are intending to travel?

As of January 18th, 2024 weekly COVID admissions per 100,000 residents was at 5.5 individuals. The highest risk of infection comes while we are traveling through the biggest metropolitan area, Fairbanks, of the trip. For Fairbanks North Star Borough, the weekly COVID admissions per 100,000 residents was at 3.6. No restriction levels remain in place in any of the communities in which we travel. With that being said, some of the communities (Allakaket, Coldfoot) have unavailable information online however we plan to adhere to any local or regional policies in which we are asked to. No testing information is required to enter the state in the event of vaccination (all group members are fully vaccinated). Upon arrival in the backcountry, it is unlikely that we will encounter other travelers. In the case that we do, we will distance adequately in order to eliminate any risk associated with catching COVID-19. Prior to travel we will monitor all participants' health and re-monitor all regional restrictions that may or may not exist.

How do you intend to mitigate the risks of exposing yourself and your teammates to COVID-19 while traveling to your trailhead?

All members of the group have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and have gotten boosters.

Due to the nature of our trip, we will be interacting with members of the public outside of our group during much of the travel to and from the backcountry. Because of this we will take cautious measures to mitigate the possibility of exposure by following Anchorage Public Transportation COVID-19 Guidance:

Practice social distancing by keeping six feet between you and others. This means choosing a seat that gives you space from other riders whenever possible.

Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Beyond these, individuals will also follow WHO recommendations.

How do you intend to mitigate the risks of exposing the residents of the area(s) where you will be traveling to COVID-19?

Upon arrival in or meeting with local communities, we will make sure to consult the necessary authorities regarding the presence of COVID-19 restrictions, making sure to adhere to any that may be present.

How do you intend to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 while in the field?

Due to the nature of our trip as one requiring teamwork and close cooperation, it will be required that we operate as a "family unit". With that being said, we will make sure to wash hands thoroughly before every meal and after every bathroom visit to facilitate high sanitation standards. We will be sure to pack plenty of soap and hand sanitizer to maintain cleanliness.

If someone on your expedition develops COVID-19 symptoms, how will you handle it?

The first step if someone develops COVID-19 symptoms is limiting their strenuous physical activity. From then on, we will treat the individual according to the recommended WHO guidance and their symptoms until confirmation of a positive COVID-19 test. Because all members of the trip have been vaccinated and boosted, we do not anticipate that any member of the group will need an evacuation. Nevertheless, due to the remote nature of the trip, evacuation plans will not change if a COVID-19 infection requires removal from the field.

Budget

Upload a detailed and complete expedition budget.

[Ritt Trip Budget.pdf](#) (167KB)
Uploaded 1/24/2024 5:43am by Jack Griffith

What is the total funding request for your trip?

\$10,000

What is the funding request per person?

2,500

Describe what measures you have taken to minimize expenses for your expedition.

To minimize costs, we will:
Use OE equipment rental discounts where applicable (Jack is an OE employee)
Avoid excess in our food, like large amounts of beef or perishable meats that could spoil
Purchase as much of our food from a bulk grocer as we can - Costco
Non organic items
Rent as much gear as possible from OE
Borrow gear from people who might be able to fill our needs
Buy generic items wherever applicable

Expedition Agreement

The Expedition Agreement must be printed, read, and signed in ink by each member of the expedition team. Once the Agreement is filled out, it should be scanned into PDF format and uploaded here. The group application will not be considered complete until this form is submitted



All “evacuation authorities” mentioned are referenced further in the following sections.

Day 1: August 7th: After waking up in Coldfoot we will board our bush plane and depart for our starting location in the Brooks Range at Gaedeke Lake (Alatna River headwaters). Upon arrival, we will unload all necessary gear and determine whether or not we can float our packrafts/gear or must hike in order to reach our first camp. We plan to hike/float 4.59 miles on day one to the confluence of the Weyahok River where we will make camp. This short day will allow for a gear “shakedown” and allow us to determine our moving times/efficiency for the upcoming days.

Note: river levels can fluctuate dramatically at this time of year and it is expected that the first 15-20 miles might need portaging/lining/walking of boats, hence this note.

Camp Location: 67.83763, -155.13039

Distance: 4.59 miles

Campsite Elevation: 2480'

Elevation Gained(+)/Lost(-): -315'

Evacuation Plan: Hike back to Gaedeke lake where the nearest potential landing zone is and call for a plane for airlift evacuation.

Day 2: August 8th: We will continue moving downstream roughly South-East as we continue to make mileage on the Alatna River. After receiving more flow from the Weyahok River, we anticipate easier travel but the day remains short to facilitate adaptation to the new environment in which we are traveling. Lining/portaging/walking of boats may be required nonetheless.

Camp location: 67.73925, -155.00301

Distance: 8.40 miles

Campsite elevation: 1974'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): -566'

Evacuation Plan: Make evacuation and safety officials aware of our need for evacuation. Begin hiking back to Gaedeke lake for airlift evacuation.

Day 3: August 9th: Downstream progress will increase today as we plan to increase the mileage after our two days of stormin' and normin' with the gear. We will continue downstream from campsite two for 15.36 miles and plan to camp at the confluence of Ram Creek. We plan to encounter the most strenuous swift/whitewater on this day as rapids are anticipated above the confluence with Ram Creek. Precautionary measures will be taken by boat scouting when possible and pulling over to scout rapids that pose a threat. According to prior research, the only named rapids (Ram Creek class (II+/III) are portageable on river right (South bank). All guide books and area intel also make note that there are opportunities for portaging at nearly any part of the river upstream of Takahula lake where the river completely slows to a meander. Flows on this portion of river are expected to be floatable and swift hence the increased daily mileage.

Camp location: 67.68221, -154.50829

Distance: 15.36 miles

Campsite elevation: 1325'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): -897'

Evacuation Plan: Make evacuation and safety officials aware of our need for evacuation. Begin hiking back to Gaedeke lake for airlift evacuation. At this point, it is possible that the hike back to Gaedeke lake could take two days. This is still a shorter distance than paddling 30+ miles with an at risk individual to Circle Lake, the next potential landing zone.

Day 4: August 10th: From our camp near the confluence of Ram Creek, we will continue downriver to our fourth camp near the confluence with Awlinyak Creek (high flow creek on river right and thus easily discernible) after

about 15.3 miles. River will be characterized by swiftwater and riffles with no rapids of note from here on out. Travel time should be quick as the river is usually swollen and losing elevation relatively quickly at this point.

Camp location: 67.54702, -154.14402

Distance: 15.3 mi

Campsite elevation: 915'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): -500'

Evacuation Plan: Make evacuation and safety officials aware of our need for evacuation. Make downstream progress (up to 25 miles) toward Circle Lake where a float plane evacuation would arrive.

Day 5: August 11th: From our campsite near the confluence with Awlinyak Creek, we will continue moving downstream for approximately 10 miles to our campsite near the outlet of Arrigetch Creek. Upon passing the mouth of Arrigetch Creek on the Alatna, we will find a place to pullover and make camp at the North-West most creek to the South of the Aquarius Valley. This will involve approximately 0.25-0.5 miles of traipsing to determine a feasible campsite. At this camp we can unload rafts and pack backpacks for our few-day foray into the Arrigetch Peaks area.

Camp location: 62.21516, -142.37801

Distance: 10.09 miles

Campsite elevation: 837'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): -216'

Evacuation Plan: Paddle downstream (approx. 8-9 miles) towards Circle Lake past the confluence of the Alatna and Arrigetch Creek. Call for float plane evacuation from Circle Lake.

Day 6: August 12th: From our campsite near the mouth of Arrigetch Creek, we will begin hiking along Arrigetch Creek to the scenery that awaits in the Arrigetch Peaks. Our main mode of orientation during this segment will be the creek (Arrigetch) that flows Northeast out of the drainage of the Arrigetch Peaks. This is the main mode of approach for the area and game trails are expected throughout the duration. Nonetheless, mileage will be kept relatively light (7.38 miles) to facilitate easier travel. This day will take us a little over 7 miles up Arrigetch creek to an area below Elephants Head (a peak in the area) where we plan to make camp (at the split of the Arrigetch and Aquarius valleys).

Camp location: 67.43649, -154.09115

Distance: 7.38 miles

Campsite elevation: 2484'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): +1994'

Evacuation Plan: Hike back approximately 8-9 miles toward Circle Lake where a float plane evacuation awaits (upon using satellite phone for contact).

Day 7: August 13th: Hiking up into the Arrigetch Peaks area will continue as we head West and higher to the cirques that await. Travel will be short and sweet with 3.24 miles via Arrigetch Creek navigation. Upon reaching our campsite, we intend to set up something of a "basecamp" to facilitate our layover day tomorrow. In this area we will be treated to sheer walls and towering peaks.

Camp location: 67.41105, -154.18453

Distance: 3.24 miles

Campsite elevation: 3033'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): +950'

Evacuation Plan: Hike back approximately 14-15 miles to Circle Lake where a float plane evacuation awaits (upon using satellite phone for contact).

Day 8: August 14th: Rest day occurs here at the foot of the Arrigetch Peaks. We will be surrounded completely by austere mountain scenes featuring Ariel Peak, Xanadu and Caliban. Short forays around the valley and surrounding Arrigetch Creek will allow for further exploration and absorption of the wonder that will encapsulate this trip.

Camp location: 67.41105, -154.18453

Distance: <2.5 miles

Campsite elevation: 3033'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): <+1500', <-1500'

Evacuation Plan: Hike back approximately 14-15 miles to Circle Lake where a float plane evacuation awaits (upon using satellite phone for contact).

Day 9: August 15th: Today we will begin our trek back to the river in order to continue moving downstream to Allakaket. We will travel along Arrigetch Creek for approximately 7 miles until we find our campsite roughly four miles below Elephant Head (where we camped on night seven). This trip will take us past our night seven campsite and closer to our resupply.

Camp location: 67.46900, -154.00909

Distance: 6.62 miles

Campsite elevation: 1604'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): -1850'

Evacuation Plan: Hike back approximately 14-15 miles to Circle Lake where a float plane evacuation awaits (upon using satellite phone for contact).

Day 10: August 16th: On our way to camp 11 we will continue down Arrigetch Creek until its confluence with the Alatna. We will then follow the course of the Alatna for approximately 1 mile until we reach Circle Lake, a common destination for float plane drop offs/resupplies. This day will be short but it will allow us to prepare for our resupply and go over our packrafts/gear for the remainder of the trip on the Alatna.

Camp location: 67.48518, -153.86387

Distance: 5.81 miles

Campsite elevation: 828'

Elevation gained(+)/lost(-): -1111'

Evacuation Plan: Make rescue authorities in Bettles and Coldfoot aware of our need for evacuation assistance. Call for evacuation and potentially wait for the resupply plane we have scheduled to pick up from Circle Lake. Circle Lake is the main evacuation point for the previous and following few days

NOTE: Elevation decreases will not be marked for daily travel as it should not exceed -200' as the nature of the river is dramatically slower from here on out. Campsite elevations will still be marked.

Day 11: August 17th: After receiving our resupply on the morning of our 11th day at Circle Lake (only resupply as rest of the trip will be raft supported) we will pump up our vessels and maintain downstream progress for the remainder of the trip. The river below Circle Lake is characterized by high volume slow meandering so downstream progress should be relatively swift. Towards the end of the trip more effort will be made to maintain downstream progress as the river slows to lake-like currents the closer we draw to Allakaket. Our camp will occur on the South bank (river right) near Takahula lake.

Camp Location: 67.36349, -153.65710

Distance: 15.12 mi

Campsite elevation: 771'

Evacuation Plan: Use the satellite phone to speak to evacuation authorities and arrange evacuation plans for pick up at Takahula Lake (via float plane).

Day 12: August 18th: After putting back on the water after our camp near Takahula lake we will continue downstream on the Alatna. The rest of the trip will be characterized by days like today in which we have flatwater with little current and many meandering twists and turns of the river. Over the next few days we will work to make our travel more streamlined and efficient to facilitate long days paddling.

Camp location: 67.24258, -153.52844

Distance: 16.54 miles

Campsite elevation: 732'

Evacuation Plan: Consult local evacuation authorities about the best location for an airlift pickup. It appears that Takahula lake is the likeliest spot for airlift evacuation (mileage could range from 0-15 miles upstream).

Note: Takahula Lake marks the last *commonly used* float plane landing site. With that being said for the duration of the trip we are never more than 3-4 miles from a lake that is of similar or greater size. As the water slows (and risk inherently decreases) after leaving the Brooks range, opportunities for airlift retrieval exist on ephemeral gravel bars and river meanders that can't necessarily be planned for. Furthermore, it is likely that the evacuation help we contact will not have an idea of exact pickup location until we call (not all lakes and areas in which we are traveling have needed rapid evacuations), for this reason some evacuation plans are somewhat speculative and represent "worst case scenario" distances.

Day 13: August 19th: We will put back on the river this morning for another day like the previous (and following). Flatwater paddle for 16 miles to campsite four on the south bank of the Alatna. Scenery will be marked by distant peaks and rolling hills with decreasing austerity until we reach our take out at Allakaket.

Camp Location: 67.12062, -153.42888

Distance: 16.00 miles

Campsite Elevation: 714'

Evacuation Plan: Contact evacuation authorities about areas for evacuation. Likely continue downstream for 15 miles towards the Malamute Fork area and await pickup on a suitable gravel bar.

Day 14: August 20th: We will put back on this morning for a 15 mile paddle to the confluence with the Malamute Fork of the Alatna. This location will provide excellent camping (gravel bars abound) and an area to revel in the scenery and how its changed since exiting the austerity of the Arrigetch Peaks.

Camp location: 67.03102, -153.26640

Distance: 15.31 miles

Campsite elevation: 671'

Evacuation Plan: Contact evacuation authorities about areas for evacuation. Continue downstream for 15 miles towards the Malamute Fork area and await pickup on a suitable gravel bar.

Day 15: August 21st: Our second rest day will commence at the Malamute Fork. Depending on the condition of the surrounding flora and the gravel bars on which we plan to camp light exploration will be encouraged. This will be our final rest day before continuing to Allakaket and will provide time to rejuvenate before many more long and slow paddling days.

Camp location: 67.03102, -153.26640

Distance: <1.50 miles

Campsite elevation: 671'

Evacuation Plan: Contact authorities that evacuation is needed from the Malamute Fork area of the Alatna.

Day 16: August 22nd: From our campsite and layover at the Malamute Fork, we will continue South-West toward the confluence with Helpmejack Creek where we plan to camp. River current is supposed to be virtually nonexistent at this point so a shorter day will allow for some exposure therapy.

Camp location: 66.94028, -153.44467

Distance: 12.49 miles

Campsite elevation: 643'

Evacuation Plan: Contact authorities that evacuation is needed from the Helpmejack lakes. A float plane is suitable for landing here and would be our mode of transport out.

Note: Topography is representative of flood plains from here on out. As previously mentioned, we will consult evacuation professionals about areas for extraction and it is likely that flatland areas, gravel bars and calm river segments would need to be communicated back to determine suitable evacuation points (hence the vagueness in some of the evacuation plans to follow).

Day 17: August 23rd: We will continue from the Helpmejack Creek area in a Southward direction toward our next campsite approximately 16 miles downstream. The campsite will be found on the river left (North bank).

Camp location: 66.79130, -153.58286

Distance: 15.82 miles

Campsite elevation: 584'

Evacuation Plan: Contact authorities about potential sites for evacuation. Likely begin hiking back upstream toward the Helpmejack lakes area and await float plane extraction.

Day 18: August 24th: We will depart from our campsite below for another 15 mile day paddling to campsite nineteen. River character will be slow and meandering if it isn't already with most downstream progress being human powered. It will be important to maintain energy while also moving efficiently to make miles on this section of the trip.

Camp location: 66.71413, -153.41309

Distance: 14.49 miles

Campsite elevation: 535'

Evacuation Plan: Contact authorities about potential sites for evacuation. Likely begin hiking back upstream toward the Helpmejack lakes area and await float plane extraction from there. Furthermore, the river should be slow enough that float plane landing is possible on the river

Day 19: August 25th: Continue paddling on the Alatna (traveling roughly Southeast at this point) for twenty miles towards Oscar's Cabin on the river left. This will be the location of our twentieth campsite and is marked on topo maps of the area as "Oscar's Cabin". Resting and eating throughout the day will prove beneficial to our "final push" to Allakaket.

Camp Location: 66.68051, -152.97792

Distance: 21.28 miles

Campsite elevation: 485'

Evacuation Plan: Contact authorities about potential sites for evacuation. At this point the river has a number of lakes on either side that could mark potential evacuation sites (marked in yellow dots on the course for day nineteen).

Day 20: August 26th: Likely to be one of the most difficult days in boats, we will wake early to tackle this beast of a paddle (20 miles). We will continue downstream to our campsite at Dossenoughten Lake. This will be our final campsite before reaching "civilization" at Allakaket and we will make sure to revel in the wilderness that we have traveled through and the experience we have had.

Camp location: 66.61472, -152.61211

Distance: 20.46 miles

Campsite elevation: 463'

Evacuation Plan: At this point it is most wise to continue moving downstream towards Allakaket for the remainder of the trip days. Evacuation authorities will be notified and consulted with regardless to make sure of the safest course of action.

Day 21: August 27th : Our final expedition day. We will travel from our campsite near Dossenoughten Lake to the community of Allakaket to await our return to civilization the following day.

Camp location: 66.56424, -152.64130

Distance: 7.51 miles

Campsite elevation: 427'

Evacuation Plan: Alert evacuation authorities that medical help may be needed and a plane should be en route to Allakaket. Packraft out toward Allakaket where we can consult professionals and move further from the bush.

GROUP GEAR:

KITCHEN:

- 2 Whisperlite (One in resupply)
- 1 Pot + Lid
- 1 Pan + Lid
- 1 Pot Grips
- 1 funnel
- 1 Spatula
- 4 Lighters
- 1 Whisperlite Repair Kit
- 8 Large White Gas Fuel Bottles (Three to start and five in resupply)
- 1 Knife
- 1 Cutting Board

NAVIGATION:

- 2 Compass
- 2 Sets of laminated maps (with emergency plans and emergency contacts)
- 1 Satellite phone/GPS Garmin Inreach mini
- 1 Personal Locator Beacon
- Downloaded Maps on 2 cell phones (Gaia Pro account)
- 2 backup battery packs
- 1 Solar charger
- 1 flare

OTHER:

- 1 large bottle of Dr. Bronners soap
- 1 trowel
- 9 extra aaa batteries
- 2 two person tents
- 8 Ur Sacks
- 6 bear sprays
- 6 AquaMira bottles
- 2 Pump-style Water Filter
- 2 sunscreen (50 spf)
- 10 yards 5mm cord
- Patch kit (for personal gear and tent)
- First Aid Kit (see below)
- Permethrin
- 1 10l Dromedary
- 1 Pyramid tent
- Playing Cards
- Duct tape
- Deet

PACKRAFT SPECIFIC GEAR: All group members will have 1 of each item on this list

- 1 Packraft with cargo fly
- 1 Paddling Cushion
- 1 4 piece paddle
- 1 Whitewater skirt
- 1 pvc whitewater deck rim
- 4 throw ropes
- At least 1 pin-kit/rescue kit
- 4 locking carabiners
- 2 pulleys
- 2 prusik loops
- 1 piece of webbing for anchor
- 2 Packraft Repair Kit

PERSONAL GEAR: All members of the group will wear wool and synthetic layers. We expect to get wet from water and weather.

- 1 Backpack (80-90L)
- 1 Drysuit
- 1 pair neoprene booties
- 1 pair neoprene gloves
- 1 whitewater helmet
- 1 PFD Type III +whistle
- 1 River Knife

- 1 Sleeping bag (5-20° F)
- 1 Sleeping pad
- 1 Headlamp
- Trekking poles (optional)
- Rain gear (jacket and pants)
- 1 Puffy Jacket
- 1 Fleece
- Hiking boots
- Camp shoes
- 3-5 Underwears
- 5 Pairs of socks
- 2 hiking shirt
- 1 buff
- Long underwear
- Sunglasses
- 1 Sun hat
- 1 bowl
- 1 spoon

Water bottles (2L carrying capacity)

Personal toiletries

GPS Watch

Bug Net

1 pair technical pants

1 pair shorts

NOLS Wilderness Medicine Field Guide

Medical Histories & relevant medical information for each team member

Evacuation contacts and family member contacts in case of emergency

3 Pairs Latex Gloves

SAM Splint

5 Cravats

3 Athletic tape (1" x 10 yards)

3 Ace Bandage (3" x 4.5 yards)

3 sheets of Moleskin

2 rolls of Coban

WOUND MANAGEMENT:

20 BandAids (medium)

8 Wound Closure strips

SOFTT-W Tourniquet

Combine Dressing (8" x 10")

6 Gauze Pad (4" x 4")

2 2nd Skin (2" x 3")

Povidone-Iodine Prep Pad

Betadine (antiseptic liquid)

Liquid Bandaid

1 Quiklot bandage

MEDICATIONS:

Ibuprofen (40 pills 800mg)

Acetaminophen 20 (pills 500 mg)

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl: 10 pills)

Pepto Bismol (10 pills)

Anti-Itch Relief

Hydrocortisone Cream

Tincture of Benzoin Swab

2 Triple Antibiotic Ointment Tubes

Anti-diarrhea like Smecta

Laxative

Aloe Vera Gel

Swimmers Ear drops

Aspirin

Acetazolamide (Altitude Sickness Medication/Anti-seizure)

TOOLS:

1 Tweezers

1 Needle

1 Pair of Trauma Shears

1 Irrigation Syringe
10 Q-Tips (sterile applicator)
Nail clippers

MISCELLANEOUS:

4 Resealable Plastic Bag
1 Space Blanket

Budget

	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost	Contact/References
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Permits

W-St. E Campi	\$0	0	\$0	
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Food

Food Drop - C	500			
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Food Estimate	1275			
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Food total	\$1,775			
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Flights* (represent round trip costs)

Jack (SEA-FAI)	\$343.00		1	https://www.google.com/travel/flights?tfs=CBwQARoeEg
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Lia (SEA-FAI)	\$343		1	https://www.google.com/travel/flights?tfs=CBwQARoeEg
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Sam (BWI-FAI)	\$645		1	https://www.google.com/travel/flights/search?tfs=CBwC
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Maren (DIA-F)	\$625		1	https://www.google.com/travel/flights/search?tfs=CBwC
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Jack (Coldfoot	\$1,100		1	Phone and email correspondence (Brooks Range Aviation
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Lia (Coldfoot-)	\$1,100		1	Phone and email correspondence (Brooks Range Aviation
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Sam (Coldfoot	\$1,100		1	Phone and email correspondence (Brooks Range Aviation
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Maren (Coldfc	\$1,100		1	Phone and email correspondence (Brooks Range Aviation
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Flights Total	\$6,356			
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Shuttle

Bus Fairbanks	\$156	4	\$624	https://www.daltonhighwayexpress.com/
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Bus Coldfoot -	\$156	4	\$624	https://www.daltonhighwayexpress.com/
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Shuttle total			\$1,228	
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Rental Items (Cost (initial)	Cost (per-day)	# days	Quantity	Discount (Jacl	Total Cost
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Packraft (padc	\$20	\$12	21	4	0.5	\$524
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Spray Skirt	\$2	\$1	21	4	0.5	\$44
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Whisperlight	\$3	\$2	21	2	0.5	\$45
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Large Fuel Bot	\$2	\$0.50	21	6	0.5	\$34
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Pair neoprene	\$1	\$1	21	4	0.5	\$43
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Whitewater h	0	0	21	3	0.5	\$0
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PFD Type III	0	0	21	3	0.5	\$0
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Sat Phone	?	?	?	?	?	
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First Aid Kit	\$0	0	21	1	0.5	0
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Rental Items (not from CC)

Bear Spray	\$10	\$2	21	4	1	\$178
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Dry suit	\$50	\$25	21	4	1	\$2,150
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Pair neoprene	\$10	\$2	21	4	1	\$178
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Gear Total	\$3,196					
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TOTAL	12555
Permits Total	0
Food Total	1775
Flights Total	6356
Shuttle Total	1228
Rental/Gear T	3196

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Reference/Contact

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/outdoorededucation/facilities/ahlberg-gear-house/index.htm>
<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/outdoorededucation/facilities/ahlberg-gear-house/index.htm>
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6 unique days, 4 rotations
Targeted Calories/Day

4500

avg cal/person/day needed from sr 1615.516667

Lunch/Snacks (all days)

cal/person/day 1790.47619

Item	Quantity	Calories
Peanut Butter Pretzles	600 g	3000
Trail mix 1	Homeade 6 cups	3000
Trail mix 2	Homeade 6 cups	3000
Dried Mangos	1500 g	4500
Dried Apples	1500 g	4000
Dried Figs	1500 g	4000
Beef Jerkey	2 bags	4000
Salami	3 salami	4100
Cheese	4 blocks	8000

Day 1, 6, 11, 16

Breakfast Item	Quantity	cal/person	582.25
Instant Oatmeal	4 cups		904
Brown Sugar	1/3 cups		278
Cinnamon	to taste		0
Dried Cranberries	1/2 cups		124
Chopped Almonds	1/2 cups		264
Peanut Butter	1/2 cups		759

Dinner Item

- Brown Rice
- Dehydrated Refriec
- Cheese
- Dehydrated Veggie

Day 2, 7, 12, 17

Breakfast Item	Quantity	cal/person	591.66667
Pancake Mix	4 cups		1760
Chocolate Chips	2/3 cup		600
Peanut butter	1/4 cups		390
Butter	1/2 cups		800

Dinner Item

- Quinoa
- Dehydrated Refriec
- Cheese
- Hot Sauce

Day 3, 8, 13, 18

Breakfast Item	Quantity	cal/person	723.75
Grits	4 cups		572
Cheese	1 1/2 cups		683
Dehydrated onions	1 cup		0
p-milk	2/3 cup		440
butter	1/4 cup		400
Crushed Fritos	5 oz		800

Dinner Item

- Orzo
- Dehydrated Pesto
- Bagged Tuna
- Butter
- Cheese

Day 4, 9, 14, 19

Breakfast Item	Quantity	cal/person	688.5
Steel Cut Oats	3 cups		1800

Dinner Item

- Cous Cous Pearl

Brown Sugar	1/4 cups	186	Dehydrated Pesto
Cinnamon	to taste	0	Butter
Dried Cranberries	1/2 cups	124	Dehydrated Veggie
Chopped Almonds	1/2 cups	264	Summer Sausage
Peanut Butter	1/4 cups	380	Cheese
Day 5, 10, 15, 20			
Breakfast	cal/person	817.5	Dinner
Item	Quantity	cal	Item
Granola	5 cups	2240	Pasta
p-milk	1 cup	650	Cheese
Peanut Butter	1/4 cups	380	p-milk
			Butter
			Summer Sausage

THE MORNING OF THE 21st WE WILL CONSUME BREAKFAST RATIONED FOR THE FIRST D

cal/person 1109.75

Quantity	cal	Breakfast+Dinner cal/person
4 cups	2736	1692
3 cups	420	Calories Needed From Snacks
1 1/2 cups	683	1808
2 cups	600	

cal/person 1177.5

Quantity	cal	Breakfast+Dinner cal/person
4 cups	3840	1769.17
3 cups	420	Calories Needed From Snacks
1 cups	450	1730.83
to taste	to taste	

cal/person 1157.5

Quantity	cal	Breakfast+Dinner cal/person
4 cups	3360	1881.25
to taste	0	Calories Needed From Snacks
15 oz	420	1618.75
1/4 cups	400	
1 cups	450	

cal/person 1350.75

Quantity	cal	Breakfast+Dinner cal/person
4 cups	3200	2039.25

to taste	0	Calories Needed From Snacks
1/4 cups	400	1460.75
1 cups	400	
6 oz	720	
1 1/2 cups	683	

cal/person 1223.25

Quantity	cal	Breakfast+Dinner cal/person
2 lb	3370	2040.75
1 1/2 cups	683	Calories Needed From Snacks
2/3 cup	440	1459.25
1/4 cups	400	

DAY