

Elliot Gaddy

Gaddy Guiding LLC

8520 Raintree Circle, Anchorage, AK 99507

elliotgaddy@gmail.com 603-986-2437



Ski Mountaineering Gear List

Ski or Snowboard Gear (gear favorites are skier-centric)

- **Skis or Splitboard** with touring bindings fit to boots. Current favorites: Black Diamond Helio skis (104 waist) and Helio 200 bindings, or on the fatter side, the Armada Tracer (118 waist).
- **Backcountry ski or snowboard boots** Current favorite: Salomon S/Lab MTN
- **Skins** Cut to fit skis or splitboard. Current favorite: Black Diamond Glidelite
- **Poles** Current favorite: Les Baton d'Alain. 3 section poles recommended for split boarders.
- **Beacon** Digital beacon less than 10 years old. 3 Antennae beacons only. Current favorite: Mammut S or Barryvox.
- **Probe** 240 cm minimum. Current favorite: Black Diamond Quickdraw Carbon 320
- **Shovel** Must have a metal blade and shaft. Current favorite: Black Diamond Evac 7 or Transfer LT
- **Helmet** Helmets must be appropriate for skiing/mountaineering. Current favorite: Petzl Meteor
- **Ski crampons** (March-May trips): check fit to bindings and skis. Current favorite: Dynafit
- **Ski strap** longer length (500mm+) is more useful. Current favorite: G3 straps

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Technical Equipment

- **Ice axe** Shorter (45-55 cm) axes fit on the pack better and work well in steep terrain. Current favorite: Petzl Ride
- **Boot crampons** Steel crampons. Current favorite: Petzl Leopard or Irvis
- **Light harness** Low profile and lightweight is a plus. Your harness should be easy to put on with skis or crampons on your feet. Current favorite: Petzl Altitude
- **Ski crampons** (March-May trips) Check fit to bindings and skis. Current favorite: Dynafit

Ask your guide if you will be needing:

- **Glacier travel and rescue gear** 4 locking carabiners, 6 non locking carabiners, belay/rappel device ex. Petzl Reverso, rope grab device ex: Petzl Nano Traxion, sewn 48" runner, 4' 6mm cord, 5' 6mm cord, 20' 6mm cord.
- **Optional** Ascent Plates: These can be great for getting up the steep and deep slopes. Both Verts and Billygoats are great. Billygoats must be pre-fit to your boots and require crampons to be affixed to the boots, but are lower profile in the pack.

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Clothing: Expect to encounter conditions as low as -10 F to as high as 50F between March and June in Southcentral AK.

- **Warm hat** Less bulk works well with lightweight helmets
- **Sun hat** Something with a brim, high ventilation encouraged, optional midwinter.
- **Face covering** A synthetic Buff is nice.
- **Puffy jacket** Warm synthetic insulated jacket that fits over outer layers. Current Favorite: Patagonia DAS Parka
- **Waterproof shell jacket** Able to tolerate both snow and light rain. Current favorite: Black Diamond Highline
- **Insulating layers** (fleece, down, synthetic) No cotton. Current favorites: Patagonia R1 and Nano Air jackets.
- **Synthetic base layer top** Current favorite: Patagonia Capeline
- **Synthetic base layer bottom** Current favorite: Patagonia Capeline
- **Synthetic underwear** Current Favorite: Patagonia Capeline
- **Shell pants** Hardshell tends to work better than soft-shell for most skiing conditions. Current favorite: Patagonia Stormstride pants.
- **2-3 Pairs of warm waterproof/shell gloves** A lighter pair for uphill travel and a warmer pair for downhill/cold temps works well. Current favorite: Black Diamond Legend and Guide gloves, Showa 282-02 TemRes
- **1 Pair very warm ski gloves or mittens** Current Favorite: Black Diamond Guide Gloves
- **Warm ski socks** Happy feet are essential! Current favorite: Patagonia Merino socks.
- **Optional** Lightweight soft shell layers, sun hoody, synthetic puffy pants (full side zip preferred).

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Personal Gear

- **Lunch food** pack for a full day, about 1,500 calories usually works. Pick food that is actually appetizing. Current favorites: Cheese, smoked meats, pretzels, cold pizza, Clif shot blocks, Jelly Belly sport beans, smoked salmon, chocolate, the list goes on...
- **1-2 Liters of water/sports drink containers** Insulated if temperatures are below freezing
- **Headlamp** Check your batteries. Bring a second set of batteries, or even better, a second headlamp. Current favorite: Petzl Actik Core.
- **Sunglasses** Photo chromatic lenses help with varying light conditions. Current favorite: Julbo Shield
- **Goggles** Multiple lens options preferred, go lighter tint if only using one lens. Current favorite: Zeal Optics.
- **Sunscreen** Optional mid-winter but nice by mid-February
- **Lip Balm** High SPF preferable
- **Ski Pack** 35-45 liter capacity. Current Favorite: Black Diamond Cirque 35
- **Optional:** Camera, hand and foot warmers, lip balm, ski scraper, skin wax, FRS radio