



# MISSION: MT. WHITNEY

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## Mission: Mt. Whitney Team of Healing Vets Well Equipped For Upcoming Expedition

**Fort Collins, CO (July 09, 2014)** – Soldiers to Summits, a program of No Barriers USA, has announced equipment sponsors for their Mission: Mt. Whitney team.

- Layered clothing items and accessories have been provided with partnerships from Mountain Hardwear and TASC.
- Footwear has to be specially fitted, in some cases, for the special needs of wounded veterans: La Sportiva. The boot fitting by Golden, Colorado's Bent Gate. Additional footwear sponsor: Teva.
- Equipment for basecamp and beyond: Big Agnes, Backcountry.com.
- *On Rope* partners to help with safety and capacity to reach the top include Black Diamond and Honey Stinger.

The Mission: Mt. Whitney expedition launch is scheduled for September 5th, with the Summit planned for September 11, a significant day in American history. The team, comprised of 15 healing veterans, will train in Colorado with mountaineers Jeff Evans and Charley Mace and do individual service projects in their hometowns this summer as well as a team service project in September before launch.

"We are grateful for the generous donations of gear to support veterans participating on Mission: Mt. Whitney. Many of these brave men and women do not have the resources to participate on their own, that's why our Soldiers Programs at No Barriers are cost-free to our participants. Having the gear needed to participate cannot be a barrier in these transformational programs. Our gear sponsors have had a tremendous impact on our team." Dave Shurna, Executive Director No Barriers USA.

This is the fifth such expedition sponsored by Soldiers to Summits, which has been a part of such high profile expeditions as the South Pole Allied Challenge (SPAC) with Britain's Prince Harry, as well as climbs of Peru's Mariposa 1, Ecuador's Cotopaxi and Nepal's Lobuche. Using mountains as both a metaphor and training ground, Soldiers to Summits helps veterans and service members overcome barriers, regardless of physical, mental or emotional challenges. Soldiers to Summits teaches participants to embrace a "No Barriers Mindset" through its expeditions and climbs, as well as its experiential offerings. Wells Fargo is joining forces with Soldiers to Summits as a part of its overall commitment to empower veterans to transition to a successful civilian life. To learn more visit [S2S2014.org](http://S2S2014.org).

**About Soldiers to Summits**

Soldiers to Summits is a program of No Barriers USA, whose mission is to unleash the potential of the human spirit. Soldiers to Summits accomplishes this by building transformative experiences designed to help veterans overcome barriers and live a life of purpose. Their journey-based expeditions range from one day to three weeks in length, and have taken the organization to Nepal, Ecuador, Peru, the South Pole and locations around the U.S.

Climb Higher. Go Further. Dig Deeper.

**About Wells Fargo's Military Affairs Program**

In 2012, Wells Fargo created a Military Affairs program to elevate its efforts in serving active duty military and veterans, and named a Military Affairs Program manager.

Wells Fargo also announced that it is committing \$35 million over the next three years as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting military service members, veterans and their families. The commitment includes real estate owned (REO) property donations and support valued at \$30 million to qualifying nonprofits that serve military service members and veterans, hiring and mentoring initiatives, customized financial education efforts, and funds for philanthropic donations and sponsorships.

In 2013, one year after announcing the \$35 million commitment, Wells Fargo is proud to announce it has donated more than 86 real estate owned (REO) properties to wounded warriors, participated in more than 150 military job fairs, hired more than 1,500 veterans and launched its *Hand on Banking*® for Military financial education program.

**For more information and interviews, contact:**

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