



# HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN EVEREST BASE CAMP



**an interview with Pili Dressel**  
**Associate Director for Special Traveling Exhibits**  
**Saint Louis Science Center**

Our base camp at the Saint Louis Science Center recreates the things you would see if you were trekking up Everest. We want visitors to get the feeling of the living conditions, the scientists' experiments and the look of the area. We are working with Mountain Hardware ([mountainhardware.com](http://mountainhardware.com)), one of the main companies that makes clothing and equipment for extreme weather conditions. We are going to use their Space Station tent, a geodome, that sleeps 15 people and holds over 30 people standing. Visitors can walk right inside. To use a tent that large you will need about a 10 x 10 area for your exhibit space. If you need to use a smaller tent, their Double Satellite also works. It sleeps 4, but 12 people can stand inside it. Outside the tent we will have a simulated gravelly, snow-lined terrain and big foam rocks that look like chunks of ice. The rocks are covered with papier mache or plaster bandages and then painted to look icy.



For programming in our Base Camp, we plan to present the demo "Might Mito Chondrion Climbs Everest" twice a day and also work with our YES teens and other volunteers so that there is someone in the exhibit to talk about the latest developments on the mountain. Inside the tent, we will have a computer, a stationary bicycle and other props to simulate the scientists' experiments. We will also display some of the posters provided by Caudwell Xtreme Everest and show their DVD. For more information about our base camp, please email [jboxer@slsc.org](mailto:jboxer@slsc.org).

The national rep for Mountain Hardware is Chris Strasser at 1/800/330-6800 x 2967. You can contact him directly or you can go to an extreme sportswear store in your area. REI carries Mountain Hardware, but they would have to special order the clothing that you would need for Everest. I talk to the representatives myself to encourage them to donate items, loan items or offer items at reduced cost.

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## From Science North to the 7th Summit:

Meagan McGrath's Everest Adventure

a Special Exhibit at Science North, Ontario, Canada, January 19th to September 3rd, 2007



Visitors are invited to “climb into the backpack” of 29-year old Sudbury native and mountain climber Meagan McGrath as she ascends Mount Everest in Spring 2007. In this special exhibit, visitors travel with Meagan to Nepal and experience what it's like to climb the world's tallest peak. They discover life at Everest base camp, cross a crevasse on the Khumbu Icefall, and ascend up the Lhotse Face on fixed ropes. They follow Meagan's progress up the mountain in April/May 2007 and discover the demands that Everest puts on the human body from weather, altitude and physical exertion.

During this event, visitors and school children will:

- participate in daily programs and learn about Meagan's progress, including direct links to Meagan through satellite phone and recordings
- learn about the physical geography of the Himalayas and the technology used by climbers to reach the summit
- use modern satellite and GIS systems to get a virtual tour of the world's major mountain ranges
- compare results of experiments conducted at the science center by staff and visitors with Meagan's ongoing investigations on the mountain
- experience life at Everest base camp and learn the importance of the altitude acclimatization process
- using Everest climbing boots, ropes and jumars, pull themselves up a slope and experience climbing up fixed ropes on the Lhotse face

For more information on “From Science North to the 7th Summit”, please contact Nicole Chiasson at [chiasson@sciencenorth.ca](mailto:chiasson@sciencenorth.ca).

**Science Beyond the Boundaries** is a network of science centers, large and small, reaching over 10 million visitors annually throughout the United States and Canada. The network's purpose is to connect science center visitors with the advancing frontiers of science and facilitate the connection between scientific research and their lives. There are no costs associated with membership in the network or materials created for network projects. For information about joining the network, email [jboxer@slsc.org](mailto:jboxer@slsc.org). Special thanks to network member Science North for sharing information about their exhibit.