



*Bringing the Adventure and Science Communities Together*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Dupre Collecting Data for ASC on Third Attempt of Denali in January**

**Talkeetna, AK January 5th, 2013--** World renowned mountaineer, Lonnie Dupre, is headed to Denali for his third attempt to summit in January. If he gains the summit, he will become the first person to complete a solo ascent of the iconic peak in January. While Dupre will be focused on his record-setting ascent, he'll also be working with [Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation](#) (ASC) to collect scientific data during the climb.

As a contributor to [ASC's microbe study](#), Dupre will provide small microbe samples to principal investigator Dr. Dragos George Zaharescu, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Arizona and the Biosphere 2 project. Zaharescu is compiling samples from the world's most remote alpine environments to study the microorganisms that live there.

Zaharescu hopes to gain insight into the biogeochemical weathering process of bedrock and how it contributes to nutrient cycling. "We want to know how microbes modify the geology they're living on to produce nutrients" Zaharescu continues, "These microbes are extracting the nutrients out of bedrock, and we try to understand the data to get a global picture of life in terms of nutrient production. We are studying how climate change influences these processes on a massive scale by working with ASC athletes volunteering around the world."

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Dupre will begin his work for ASC at 12,000 feet during a multi-stage, technical climbing route and will pause every 200 meters (656 feet) to collect rock samples on the 20,328-foot goliath. The expedition could take up to a month. In the extreme alpine weather, Dupre must make use of snow cave shelters for survival. On Dupre's previous attempts to summit Denali in the coldest month of the year, he was forced to bivouac in a 4-foot by 4-foot snow cave at 14,200 feet for seven days. During his bivy NOAA Aviation recorded 97 mph wind gusts that brought the wind chill to a deadly -75 degrees Fahrenheit, and Dupre was forced to retreat off the mountain for the second time.

Ready for round three, Dupre has been training in Homer, Alaska, and was recently acclimatizing in the Rockies in Colorado at 14,000 feet. After Christmas, Dupre flew into Talkeetna, Alaska to gear up for the attempt. The ascent will officially begin on Kahiltna Glacier at 7,200 feet as soon as the team has a clear weather window to get on the mountain.

Dupre is excited to be working through ASC, citing his past difficulties sourcing scientists to develop programs for his numerous expeditions. "It (ASC) was a link that wasn't there and it's important because a lot of these cutting edge adventurers are going to places that are so hard to access for scientists that are expensive," Dupre said.

ASC has partnered more than 1,000 athletes with more than 110 researchers from around the world. Learn more about ASC's [microbe study](#) and other ongoing projects on the website, and follow Dupre's record breaking attempt on [ASC's blog](#) as well as through [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

### **About Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation**

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation was founded in January of 2011 with the understanding that many people traveling in the outdoors genuinely want to do more for the places they visit but often struggle with how to help. ASC exists to bridge this gap by pairing adventure athletes already traveling to some of the earth's most difficult-to-reach places with the scientists who need information from these areas. ASC also has the goal of creating unique and innovative learning experiences about science while also saving the scientific and conservation communities millions of dollars in data collection costs. For more information visit [www.adventureandscience.org](http://www.adventureandscience.org)

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