

# Virtual Base Camp

In May, Nobleboro Central School students will share an Arctic adventure with seventh grade/science teacher Ken Williams as he travels to Denali National Park in Alaska with scientist, (and former NCS student) Seth Campbell.

Campbell studies glaciers and climate. The theme of this expedition will be "reconstructing the past climate of central Alaska."

Williams will actually be traveling with Campbell from the Mt. McKinley climbing base camp at 7500 feet to Mount Hunter at 14,000 feet.

The team will be "tracking up the Kahiltna Glacier with ground penetrating radar and ice coring gear to be deployed on Mount Hunter."

This trip is a unique opportunity, as only about 12 teams out of hundreds of applicants are funded each year. Thanks to the folks at PolarTREC, Mr. Williams (a.k.a. Mr. Will) now has the necessary gear to face the elements in the wilderness of Alaska.

PolarTREC will also supply the necessary logistics, support and training to move this experience out to the public. They even pay for Ken's guest teacher while he is away.

PolarTREC, funded by the National Science Foundation and other donors, teams teachers and researchers in high latitudes in both the Arctic and Antarctic.

Most teacher/scientist teams don't know each other, but Campbell and Williams have maintained a friendship over the 20-plus years since Campbell left Nobleboro in 1992 and attended Lincoln Academy.

He is on track to finish his Ph.D. at UMaine, Orono this summer.

What is truly amazing, is that Mr. Will's students may follow him onto the glacier from the classroom.

The scientists in Alaska will extract samples of ice cores from deep in the glacier. The purpose of obtaining these specimens is to record and study the past climate and precipitation of Central Alaska.

Ice cores extracted from deep in the glacier will assist scientists in their research, providing insight to climate and precipitation over the past 1000 years.

The project takes place on a divide between the North and South Peaks of Mount Hunter within Denali National Park and Preserve.

Meanwhile, Mr. Will's students will be following the scientists' adventure electronically, asking the team questions, and with a little bit of luck have real-time satellite phone and video feeds.

It's not just a matter of collecting data. The students will witness the physical and emotional challenges of working in an extreme climate, as well as basic survival techniques - melting snow for water, cooking, setting up tents - in one of the world's most remarkable and beautiful mountain ranges.

Visit [www.polartrec.com/](http://www.polartrec.com/) to learn more about this adventure. Look for Mr. Will and Seth Campbell under upcoming expeditions and be sure to read the journals and look at photos. There will be much more coming when the expedition starts in May, but there is much to learn on the website right now.



Kathryn Estes, Lexi Hartford, Anna Hatch, Travis Knof, Cody York of Nobleboro Central School with Arctic-exploration equipment.



Hard-to-recognize Ethan Burns, Tally Benner, and Will Monti are NCS students checking out Mr. Will's equipment.

**THE LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS**

**LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE**

**MARCH 7, 2013**