



*"The More You Carry In Your Head,
The Less You Carry On Your Back"*

About Jack Mountain Bushcraft & Guide Service And The Earth Skills Semester and Summer Programs

Jack Mountain is a real place, although you won't find it on any map. It is a large hill with exposed cliffs in the woods of rural New Hampshire near where I grew up. I'm not sure where the name originated, but as a youngster I was told by my older brother that it was called Jack Mountain, and since then that's what I've know it as. Picking blueberries and huckleberries, scrambling around on the rocks, and listening to quiet rhythms of nature are my earliest memories. It seemed to me then, as it does now, that the natural world is a part of me, and I of it. Separation from it, which seems so common in the modern world, has never been a reality for me.

I grew up like many rural kids, fascinated by nature and spending most of my time in the woods or with a fishing rod in my hands. Some of my fondest memories from my youth are of a friend and I who would get together every day after school and head into the woods, tracking deer, having campfires, and exploring the empty spaces on the town map. During high school and college I did well academically and played a lot of hockey, but after finishing college, when my peers were moving to the city and starting careers, I purchased an old 12-foot travel trailer and pulled it to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, where I lived for the better part of two years on the edge of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge near the Moose river. Wandering in the bush, fishing, and learning about the native flora and fauna took up most of my time. To earn money I washed windows and began teaching outdoor education workshops.

I started Jack Mountain Bushcraft & Guide Service (JMB&GS) in 1999, and since then have been teaching and guiding full time. We're a small, family business, and I personally guide each trip and teach each course. Group size is intentionally kept small, insuring individual attention during courses and allowing greater flexibility and ease of travel on trips.

The 10-week Earth Skills Semester Program (ESSP) is our longest and most in-depth course. It is also the longest and most in-depth traditional wilderness living and travel experience available anywhere. Other courses focus on general and specific aspects of living and thriving in the outdoors using traditional, low-tech skills.

If you'd like to learn more about what we do please visit our Web site at www.jackmtn.com. There you can read trip journals, view photo galleries of courses and trips, watch streaming video, and keep up to date our current schedule.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email, call, or write to me with them.

Sincerely,

Tim Smith, M.Ed.
Owner, Jack Mountain Bushcraft & Guide Service