

Will Jordan Romero Make It to the 'Top of the World'?



Jordan Romero is about to set out on the adventure of his life. He is getting ready to climb the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, which rises more than 29,000 feet along the border of China. If 13-year-old Jordan accomplishes his goal, he will be the youngest person to stand at the top of the world.

Jordan is an experienced mountain climber who has proven himself on many other mountains. When he was just ten years old, he became the youngest person to climb Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro. In 2008, he climbed North America's highest mountain, the 20,000 foot-high Mount Denali in Alaska. So far, as a matter of fact, Jordan has climbed the highest mountain on five of Earth's seven continents.

Jordan knows all about the difficulties he will face on his Everest climb. Hurricane-force winds blow atop Everest much of the year. Temperatures can sink to 100 degrees below zero, and climbers often experience difficulty breathing as they climb. The youngest climber to climb Everest so far, a 16-year-old boy from Nepal, lost five fingers to frostbite as a result of his climb.

Many people say a 13-year-old boy has no place on Everest. Hundreds of people have died in their attempts to reach the peak, they say. But Jordan disagrees. He says his mind and body are set to go. "I've been training for four years," he said. "I feel ready and I just want to start climbing now."

NEWS WORD BOX

difficulty achieve
accomplish proven
attempt accompany

Jordan will be accompanied on this climb by his father, his father's girlfriend, and three guides, or *sherpas*, who know the mountain well. "If we encounter danger on the climb, we will not be afraid to turn back," said Paul Romero, Jordan's father. "We may or may not reach the top this time."

If Jordan is successful in his quest to climb Everest, he hopes to climb Antarctica's highest mountain later this year. With those two climbs completed, he will have achieved his dream of being the youngest climber to reach the highest spots on all seven continents.

Today, Jordan and his father are living at an Everest base camp about 18,000 feet above sea level. They are waiting for perfect weather conditions so they can begin their climb.

You can follow the climb
at www.jordanromero.com.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is Jordan too young to climb Everest?
Why do you think that way?