

Mountaineer Kito plans to climb Mount Nuptse

by Holly F. Reimer

Tundra Times reporter

Gordy Kito, 22, has touched the top of Mount Denali five times. And now he plans to reach the summit of Mount Nuptse, which is in the Himalayas and is located right next to Mount Everest.

Kito, who has been climbing everything from rocks to frozen water falls for the last 13 years, said he is excited to travel outside of America. Mount Nuptse is located between Tibet and Nepal.

Kito, who is Tlingit, is the only member of his family who is an accomplished mountain climber.

"I was introduced to climbing during summer camp when I was 8 years old," Kito said during a recent interview.

Kito feels confident that he is mentally and physically ready to climb Mount Nuptse. He has been training

for the climb. And before being interviewed recently he was climbing frozen waterfalls near Girdwood, where he lives.

He and five others, who he said are the best climbers around are planning to leave for Mount Nuptse Wednesday.

There is a permit fee of \$5,000 that must be obtained from the Nepalese government to climb the mountain. And each individual will be required to have \$7,000 as a total expense budget for the entire trip.

Kito expects the ascent of the mountain to take about eight days. But he's going to stay in the country for two months to learn more about it, he said.

Kito has worked as a climbing guide at Mount Denali for the last few summers, and he said during this climb instead of being a guide he will be more like a follower.