

# Chris Warner

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Chris Warner is a CEO, mountaineer, and teaches leadership at the Wharton School of Business. In his keynotes and workshops, Chris uses his gripping mountaineering stories and Emmy-nominated footage to illustrate the need for all of us to build better teams. He helps the audience transfer the leadership lessons by teaching a data-driven, real-world, formula for building high performance teams.

“As an educator, you have to open people’s minds before you can fill them,” Chris says. “Epic stories of summiting Everest and surviving K2, have proven to be the perfect mind openers. We can then explore what it takes to create and lead a team that will be successful when failure is not an option.”

An avid mountaineer with over thirty years of climbing experience, Chris has summited five of the world’s tallest peaks. Among his many accomplishments, Chris is one of only nine Americans to have summited both K2 and Everest, and he was the first American to “solo” an 8000 meter peak –the South Face of Shisha Pangma in a 34-hour non-stop ascent and descent. Chris started teaching climbing in 1983, and has led nearly 200 international mountaineering expeditions. He is a certified Alpine Guide with the American Mountain Guides Association.

One of the most successful mountaineers in North America, Chris has been featured on numerous television shows and films. Among them, Chris guided the first-ever reality TV show filmed on Everest, and has also been an expert on climbing and leadership issues on NBC, CNBC, ABC, OLN, National Geographic TV, Fox, CNN, BBC, and Bloomberg. In 2007, Chris and his team filmed their K2 expedition for NBC and were nominated for several Emmys.

Combining his passion for climbing with an entrepreneurial spirit, Chris founded Earth Treks, Inc. in 1990. Now with four locations and 250 employees serving more than 750,000 customers annually, Earth Treks operates premier indoor climbing and fitness centers, a rock and ice climbing school, and offers guided international mountaineering expeditions. Chris and Earth Treks have carved a niche for themselves in leadership development. Every year, Earth Treks guides expeditions for a variety of groups, such as senior executives, Fortune 500 companies, the MBA Candidates at the Wharton School of Business, covert and special ops teams and US Intelligence Agencies, and cancer survivors.

Regarded as a top expert on creating and leading High Performance Teams, Chris has been a featured speaker for many top corporations and educational institutions, including Google, the coaching staff of the Super Bowl Champion Baltimore Ravens, BB&T Bank, Morgan Stanley, Cisco, General Growth Properties, Aegon, Monumental Life, Charles Schwab, Raymond James Financial Services, Northrup Grumman, Liberty Global, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Prudential, The Allegis Group, WPO, YPO, Vistage, The University of Colorado, Loyola University’s Executive MBA Program, University of Maryland’s MBA Program, Wharton Business School, and Johns Hopkins University.

He is also the co-author of several leadership books including High Altitude Leadership and Upward Bound.