



Mount Everest was a culmination of an odyssey that began at age twelve when Sharon Wood's father took her up her first mountain. By the time she was seventeen she was devoting all her time to climbing. Laurie Skreslet met Sharon at Outward Bound and knew she was out of the ordinary. "It was obvious to me the moment I saw her that she was committed, grounded, determined, focused, persevering...overflowing with potential."

Her first break came in 1977 when she joined an all-women's expedition to Mount Logan. Then in 1983 Sharon Wood had her first big success with the Cassin Ridge on Mount McKinley which "really changed my attitude. I didn't see myself so much as a woman but as a climbing partner. I came back with a lot of confidence."

Expeditions to Makalu (1984), the south face of Aconcagua (1984) and the northeast face of Huascarán Sur (1985) followed. By 1986 Sharon Wood realized that she was "ready for anything." Her ascent of Mount Everest by the difficult west ridge and north face was first for a North American woman, but as her friend Albi Sole recalled, "It's not because she was a woman that she got to the top, it's because she was the right person for the job..."

After Everest Sharon Wood moved on to other adventures. Much in demand as a public speaker, she travels North America sharing her experiences and her approach to risk. In 1988 she married and is now raising a family. Much of her time nowadays is taken up organizing a private school she started in her home town of Canmore, Alberta. In 1997 Sharon received the Summit of Excellence Award at the Banff Mountain Film Festival.

Sharon Wood explained her motives in a recent interview. "The constants that I have strived to maintain through all of these things is ...the steep ..."

Testimonials

"You share yourself in such a sincere and vulnerable way that each of us can believe that we have the capability to achieve more than we have thought possible; that better is possible. Our leadership team was flooded with compliments for giving them the opportunity to hear from you. They said that they could relate to your accomplishment and story in a way that they had not experienced with other speakers...through personal commitment and teamwork they could take their ordinary skills and develop them in a way that would allow them to deliver more both personally and professionally than they had thought possible."

- G. Edward Collins, GlaxoSmithKline.

"You won over a normally skeptical crowd of North American and European bond market players with your compelling and thought provoking tale of achievement through teamwork and sheer determination."

- RBC Capital Markets Inc..

Sharon Wood

Speech Topics

- Women's Issues
- Teambuilding
- Sports
- Personal Growth
- Peak Performance
- Overcoming Adversity

