

John Experiences a New Kind of Summit



In September I went on an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa. Kilimanjaro is the world's highest freestanding mountain at 19,340 feet above sea level. It is the highest peak in Africa and one of the world's "seven summits" which include Aconcagua, Denali, and Everest. To reach the top you have to travel for miles over rugged terrain and through five climate-zones: rainforest, heath, moorland, alpine desert, and glaciers.

Needless to say, it wasn't a "cake-walk" getting up the mountain. We started with 13 in our group and 10 made it to the summit five days later. We lost members to fatigue, acute mountain sickness, and a broken leg along the way.

We all made it home though, and we all came away from our climb with a renewed respect for our guide, a world-class mountaineer, and an appreciation for each other. It was clear to all of us that without experienced leadership and without the support of our team members none of us could have made it to the top.

Those lessons from the mountain are the most analogous to what we do here at Summit. We look for the most experienced leaders in money management to guide our investments, and we rely on a team approach to give us strength. Those principles are time-tested and will continue to benefit our clients for years to come.

I'm grateful for my experiences on Mount Kilimanjaro, and I'm glad to be back home with the team here at Summit Asset Management.

