To Adventure and Beyond

WALTHER SHARES PASSION FOR OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

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Tim Walther had a life-changing experience the first time he climbed Mount Moran in Grand Teton National Park. It was there he realized exactly what he wanted to do with his life to combine business with adventure.

"Climbing is a series of moments of fear and then moving through that," he says. "Particularly when you're beginning in climbing, you put yourself in a challenging situation, move through it, and grow from it… Climbing became an integral part of my focus and taking that element of challenge to people as that applies to their daily lives."

Soon after his climb, Walther started Grand Dynamics International, a company that specializes in team-building events, leadership training, and adventure retreats for businesses that involve programs of rafting, climbing, and problem-solving activities. He's also a motivational speaker, facilitator, and co-author of the book "Seeking True North: The Pathway to Freedom, Beauty and Success."

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>
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"The ongoing joke early in my career is that I always wanted to be a motivational speaker but I didn't have anything to say," he says. "That desire drove me to travel, explore, and be able to share and apply those lessons to business."

Mountaineering gave him a lot to draw from. Walther believes that pushing people to their limits helps them learn more about themselves, which can then help them do their jobs.

"You expand your comfort zone," Walther explains. "You do something you're not comfortable doing and then later you have the greater capacity to do the next thing."

After growing up in New Hampshire, Walther studied applied business psychology at Ithaca College in New York before coming to Jackson to join his brother, Todd.

Together, they started an adventure-based education program for people with disabilities through the nonprofit Community Entry Services.

From there, Walther went to graduate school at Minnesota State University, Mankato, to get a degree in experiential education with a focus on corporate adventure training. With his degree in hand, he returned to Jackson to start Grand Dynamics International. His business now has offices in New York, Sedona, Arizona, and San Francisco, contractors all around the country, and a sister company in Thailand.

He travels frequently for work, jetting off to different business retreats, including his own staff retreats featuring free diving and spearfishing in Mexico.

While Walther sells adventure to his corporate clients, he also lives it. He bikes, swims, and, of course, climbs in his spare time. He even started the Ultimate Towner obstacle course race in Jackson to share his love of outdoor activities.

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