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12 Things to Survive and Thrive While Winter Camping

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words & photos / DAN.EVANS

This past April, pro skier Michelle Brazier and I spent 17 days in the Canadian Arctic on the Sam Ford Fjord, on Baffin Island, and skied some of the world's most spectacular couloirs. Once the snow machines dropped us in front of the Polar Sun Spire we were on our own for the duration, so we had to be prepared for everything and anything. Let's just say your pizza order won't be warm when it arrives 48 hours after you order it on the satellite phone. Everything we brought would determine our success or level of suffering. Camping at 70 degrees north presented some unique challenges. The size of our ski objectives meant we had to choose gear that allowed us to be mobile in temperatures down to negative 50 with windchill. We came across polar bears, seals and massive cliff walls, but the most difficult task was staying warm. During the daytime we would bootpack up 3,000 to 5,000 feet of vertical and nights were spent drying out gear to do it all over again. Needless to say, spending over two weeks in tents together meant we knew each other's scent (or maybe odor) quite well. Our gear worked in one of the harshest environments on Earth. In order to help ensure that your next overnight adventure in the cold goes according to plan, here's 12 gear essentials Michelle and I utilized in our travels.

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