FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summit Scholarship announces its 2027 lineup: more than 20 fully funded expedition places for women, headlined by the LOWA TransAlp Summit Scholarship

LOWA returns as apex partner after a Matterhorn season that drew 350 applicants for two spots. 2027 brings eight destinations across the Alps, the Cascades, Croatia, and the Himalaya. Applications open December 15.

KANAB, Utah — November 23, 2026 — The Summit Scholarship today announced its 2027 expedition scholarship lineup, the largest in its history: more than twenty fully funded places for women who could not otherwise afford them, across eight separate destinations with seven women-led and women-focused guide services. The year is headlined by the LOWA TransAlp Summit Scholarship, a hut-to-hut crossing of the Alps with eight scholarship places. It celebrates LOWA, the German mountain-boot maker, as the Summit Scholarship's returning apex partner, the top tier of its partner program.

The TransAlp runs June 19 to 26, 2027. Recipients arrive the evening of June 19 to meet the group before they embark on a six-day hut-to-hut trek, crossing the Alps from Garmisch-Partenkirchen to Meran. Vivalpin, an alpine guide service, leads the route. GORE-TEX® Brand joins as the program's technical partner, supporting the TransAlp Summit Scholarship with knowledge sessions on alpine weather, gear, and navigation and trip planning. The TransAlp's eight scholarship places are open to women worldwide, and the Summit Scholarship is looking forward to hosting a team of women from around the globe.

The TransAlp builds on the first year of the LOWA partnership. In September 2026, two Summit Scholarship recipients, selected from 350 applicants in 43 countries, climbed the Matterhorn as part of the LOWA Matterhorn Adventure with the alpinist Ines Papert as their mentor. A film crew followed the climb. The resulting 23-minute documentary, *Where She Belongs*, premiered at the Bergfilm Festival Tegernsee in October and is now available to watch online.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbL47SDEl1Y

Alongside the TransAlp, the 2027 lineup places women with the Summit Scholarship's operating partners across North America and Europe: a girls' and young women's glaciated climb of Mount Baker with AWExpeditions, a Glacier Peak climb with Upward Transitions Institute that includes places designated for BIPOC women in partnership with Brown Girls Climb, a week of hiking in the Mont Blanc massif specifically for Muslim women with the Ma'wa Collective, and a climb-and-sail week in Croatia and a women's ice climbing course in Austria with LOWA athlete Ines Papert, who returns to the Summit Scholarship for a second year in a row as a mentor and trip leader; additional trips with AWExpeditions in Nepal and with She Moves Mountains in the United States are in the works. Every scholarship covers the full trip fee, a travel stipend paid directly to the recipient, and sponsor gear. On the TransAlp, the stipend is tiered by home region, from €200 to €700.

For the women who go, the scholarship changes what feels possible. “It’s important to inspire future generations to climb their own mountains, both literal and metaphorical, with the confidence that their gender will not dictate their limits,” wrote Rose Jaramillo, who climbed Mount Baker with Rope Team Rising in 2025 at age 20, in her application.

“Most women who dream of the Alps never get a week among those peaks. The LOWA TransAlp changes that for eight of them, and LOWA stepping up as our apex partner is what makes a year of this scale possible: all in all, more than twenty women will get to experience transformative mountain adventures in 2027 who would otherwise likely have stayed home,” said Sunny Stroeer, Executive Director of the Summit Scholarship.

“LOWA has always believed the mountains should be open to all who want to explore them,” said Brad Potts, Marketing Director, LOWA USA. “The Summit Scholarship removes the barriers that keep too many women from the high country, and supporting participants as they cross the Alps is exactly the kind of work we want our name behind.”

The 2026 cycle drew 2,150 applications from 82 countries for fourteen scholarships. The 2027 program is funded by LOWA alongside other marquee outdoor brands such as Fjällräven and Arc’teryx, as well as individual and institutional donors including The Cairn Project (the Summit Scholarship’s sister initiative within the GEA Alliance).

The 2027 application window opens December 15, 2026, and closes January 31, 2027. Applicants apply to each program separately and may apply to more than one. Recipients will be announced around International Women’s Day, March 8, 2027, after a blind review of every application against the Summit Scholarship’s three published criteria: mission alignment, transformative potential and credible financial need.

Since its 2019 launch, the Summit Scholarship has awarded more than $225,000 in expedition scholarships to women and girls, covering trip fees, travel and gear so that access to community and funding are not the reasons a woman stays home from the mountains.

About the Summit Scholarship

The Summit Scholarship provides expedition scholarships for women and girls, pairing each recipient with an all-female group and established guide service, as well as the gear and support to take on a trip she could not otherwise afford. The Summit Scholarship is an initiative of the GEA Alliance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

About LOWA

Founded in 1923 in Jetzendorf, Upper Bavaria, LOWA is a globally respected outdoor footwear brand with more than 100 years of handcrafted European heritage. Renowned for exceptional fit, quality, and innovative construction, LOWA designs premium footwear across hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, trail running, lifestyle, and tactical categories. The brand is one of the only footwear manufacturers to earn ISO 9001 certification for the highest quality construction and process standards, and its certified tactical footwear complies with European Union PPE standards. As part of Tecnica Group, a global leader in outdoor footwear and winter sports equipment, LOWA continues to advance performance-driven

innovation while expanding its global presence. In North America, LOWA recently opened its new U.S. headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah, reinforcing the brand's long-term investment in the outdoor market. For more information, visit www.us.lowa.com.

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