



Jim Davidson

ADVENTURER / EXPLORER · AUTHOR

Resilience Expert, Everest Summit Climber, Expedition Leader,
Motivational Speaker



About:

- **Gender:** Male
- **Nationality:** United States
- **Languages:** English
- **Travels from:** United States

Engagement Types:

- Speaking

Topics:

- Change Management
- Leadership & Management
- Mindfulness & Resilience
- Motivation and Inspiration
- Peak Performance
- Team Leadership

Biography Highlights

- Survived Two Mountain Disasters, including the Deadliest Day on Mt. Everest
- Top-Rated Speaker - Change Management & Leading Teams
- Expedition Leader, Everest Summiteer, NYT Best-Selling Author

Biography

Meet Jim Davidson

Jim Davidson is a resilience expert who has survived not just one epic mountain disaster, but two. From his real-world survival experiences, he distills hard-won lessons about forging the resilience to overcome change, challenge, and uncertainty.

While climbing Mount Everest, Jim and his team survived massive earthquakes and avalanches on what became the mountain's deadliest day ever. Jim later returned to Everest and summited successfully. His riveting survival stories have been featured in documentaries for National Geographic, Smithsonian Channel, Netflix, and Discovery's hit show, "I Shouldn't Be Alive". Jim has been featured on NPR, CBS, CNN, and hundreds of other media outlets.

From his 42 years of adventures, Jim shares compelling stories and

practical tips about how to persevere and how to endure uncertain times through resilience strategies and post-traumatic growth. Davidson provides motivating keynotes and interactive workshops on resilience, teamwork, leadership, and change management. His energizing messages have been shared in-person and virtually with audiences in more than 35 countries.

Jim has scaled high peaks from Argentina to Nepal, and from Bolivia to Tibet. While leading expedition teams around the globe, Jim has guided his teammates through storms and setbacks to reach lofty summits. The U.S. National Park Service has commended Jim twice for volunteering on successful high-altitude rescues in Colorado and Alaska.

His latest book, *The Next Everest*, was published in six international editions and was selected as an Amazon Editor's Pick. Jim's survival memoir, *The Ledge*, was a New York Times bestseller. He worked for twenty years as a hydrogeologist and managed his own environmental consulting firm. In his youth, Jim worked for his father painting high-voltage electrical towers carrying 230,000 volts.

Videos



Jim's Topics

EVEREST RESILIENCE: Overcoming Adversity and Reaching High Goals

Work, life, and mountain climbing always include change, challenge, and uncertainty. From his four decades of adventures around the globe, Jim Davidson shares hard-won wisdom about forging resilience, encountering setbacks, and still achieving high goals.

In this riveting keynote, Jim shares his real-world survival experiences of:

- Enduring the deadliest day ever on Mount Everest, when huge earthquakes and avalanches trapped Jim and his team at 19,900 feet.
- Recovering from this disaster and returning two years later to summit Mt. Everest.
- Escaping from the 80-foot-deep hidden glacial crevasse that swallowed Jim and killed his climbing partner on Mount Rainier.

Your attendees will learn practical lessons on how they can:

- Cultivate a resilient mindset for managing change.
- Spark resilience in each other during stormy times.
- Provide resilient leadership, even when the path forward is unclear.
- Rebound from setbacks even stronger than before, through post-traumatic growth.

Jim will inspire your team to be ready and resilient for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Keynote is 30 to 75 minutes. Offered live or virtual.

Available: Virtually

CLIMBING MOUNTAINS OF CHANGE: Elevating Your Team's Resilience

Many businesspeople feel overwhelmed by global changes, resource challenges, and market uncertainties. All of these, combined with high client expectations, can create fatigue, stress, or burnout. To keep climbing these mountains of change, professionals need to elevate their resilience.

From his 42 years of high-altitude climbing experiences (including Everest), expedition leader Jim Davidson shares field-tested tips for building a resilient mindset. He shares practical tips and techniques on how your team can:

- Accept uncertainty.
- Adapt to changes.
- Endure the inevitable storms.
- Stay summit-driven while avoiding dangerous "summit fever".

In this compelling keynote, Jim reveals resilient teamwork and leadership techniques for:

- Being trustworthy.
- Amplifying resilience in others.
- Preparing for false summits.
- Nurturing Post-Traumatic Growth for the opportunities ahead.

NOTE: This keynote connects especially well with fiscal services organizations and high-level sales teams. Since 2006, Jim has spoken to hundreds of such teams, both nationally and internationally, because the traits that make great high-altitude climbers also make excellent sales professionals.

Keynote is 30 to 60 minutes. Offered live or virtual.

Available: Virtually

RESILIENT TEAMWORK AND RESILIENT LEADERSHIP

As an expedition leader, Jim has encountered many intense teamwork and leadership challenges. During remote climbs and rescues, the pressure increases, uncertainty grows, and team dynamics can become strained. High-performing organizations face these same teamwork and leadership conditions in today's fast-

paced, ever-changing world.

By examining real-world mountain rescues, that Jim has conducted, he facilitates an invigorating, interactive workshop that has your team working together to resolve complex leadership and teamwork challenges. Some of the difficult rescues that Jim has been on include:

- Solo mountaineer critically ill at 19,200 feet on Denali (Mt. McKinley).
- Hiker severely injured by falling 70 feet off a cliff at 13,000 feet in Colorado.
- Climbers trapped by earthquakes and avalanches at 19,900 feet on Everest.

In this hands-on session, Jim uses engaging storytelling and powerful visuals to bring these amazing experiences to life for your attendees. Then, he guides the participants to analyze the situation and distill crucial resilience lessons that they can use to be better team members and leaders. Your team will:

- Debate what traits make a team member resilient.
- Identify characteristics that a resilient leader should display.
- Examine their own resilience strengths and weaknesses.

This engaging workshop includes interactive modules with small-group discussion, large-group facilitation, and individual self-reflection. Jim's well-refined process enhances mutual understanding and relationship-building among work colleagues. Each person walks away with an individual written self-analysis and specific ways that they can enhance their resilience at work or home.

Also, by recording all the key traits identified during the discussions, the process distills your team's collective ideas on what makes a resilient team member and a resilient leader. This critical insight can be used later in internal communications and for enhancing corporate culture.

Attendees vigorously engage with the process because these are real challenges (not board games or simulations). Jim regularly facilitates this energizing program for top-quality organizations like Marriott, Credit Suisse, US Army, Kia Motors, and many more. Interactive workshop is 1.5 to 4 hours.

Available: Virtually

Testimonials

“

Jim was truly an inspirational speaker. He was warm, engaging, and was able to focus his talk so that it was geared toward our organization's mission. He was very professional and we would recommend his talk to any large group focused on resilience. Thank you from Donor Network West.

Andye Daley

Donor Network West

“

It is a rarity to find such a casual, yet professional presenter. It's a great mix and I definitely look forward to working with you in the future. I can't thank you enough for making my job so much easier...

Jolene McNeil

CMP, Meeting Manager

“

The post-event surveys are in and, as I expected, you got top marks from everyone. The only complaints were that I didn't schedule you for a longer session, earlier in the workshop. But that just means we'll have to bring you back!

Martha Morrison

CMP, Vice President-Meetings and Trade Shows
Self Storage Association

“

Jim Davidson's keynote presentation and incredible personal stories of resiliency set the tone for our entire three-day National State Insurance Trade Association Conference. Our group of insurance association and company executives are in the business of dealing with adversity and Jim used his compelling life lessons to inspire our attendees to reach for new personal and professional heights. We all regularly hear from motivational speakers, but the feedback we received on Jim's presentation was that it uniquely resonated because it was about taking real risks and surviving in the face of impossible odds.

Carole Walker

Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association

“

Jim was very quick on the uptake during our pre-event meetings and showed from the beginning an understanding for the client's strategic focus for the conference. From their main values and cue words, Jim connected his experiences with the purpose of the event. Inspiring, educational and very value-creating presentation!

Jonas Lysholm Larsen

Project Coordinator
Eventually, Denmark

“

After Jim Davidson spoke at our event, a participant later said to me, "The best speaker I've heard was at your conference. Jim had the most relevance to advising than all of the speakers I've heard." Jim was very easy to work with, he was very organized, and made a lasting impression on the participants. We have since used his book, *The Ledge*, in our local literacy program; the students are on the edge of their seats while reading it.

Patty Pederson

Student Services Coordinator
Carbon County Higher Education Center

“

This is the second time we have had Jim as a keynote speaker. Jim's Resilience keynote tied right into the emphasis we wanted as a take away from our meeting. Jim's ability to assimilate and shape the keynote to our business and provide methods/tools to help each of us moving forward was remarkable. We are grateful to Jim for providing both an inspirational message but more importantly, specific ideas and process that we can begin using immediately to improve ourselves and our business.

Brad Thornton

President & CEO
University Mechanical & Engineering Contractors, Inc.

“

We will be facing challenges of a different nature in the coming year, challenges of new and dynamic growth. The key to our success will lie in our ability to execute: exactly the problem you had to deal with inside the glacier if you were going to survive. I will be stressing the importance of execution as we embark on these adventures; reminding them of the power of your talk and calling on them to reach inside and go beyond their perceived limits. I believe that they will rise to the occasion as never before. Many thanks for helping us to see beyond ourselves!

David Sage

CEO

Underground Locators, LLC

“

We had an inspiring, invigorating and very meaningful presentation from mountain climber Jim Davidson. Jim helped us with a great send off by using our challenges as analogies to correspond with his mountain climbing experiences. It worked wonderfully!

Donna D. Watford

CMM, CMP - President of Meeting

Professionals International, Rocky Mountain Chapter

“

What an incredible story. You could hear a pin drop during his presentation.

Vice President of Convention/Hotel Sales

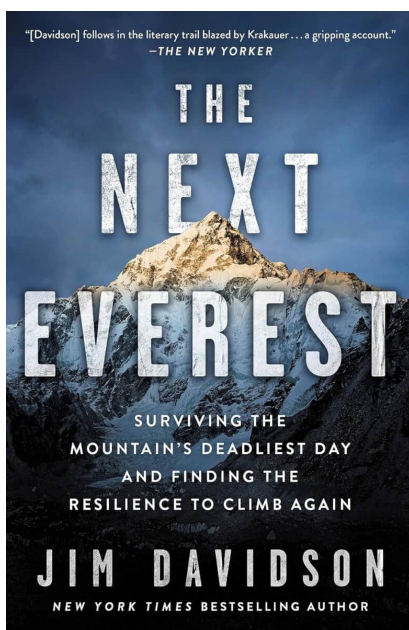
Caesars, Bally's, Harrah's

“

Jim gave me the motivation to go forward with a project I have been struggling with for a year. Now I have inspiration to do it!

AMC Institute attendee

Books



The Next Everest: Surviving the Mountain's Deadliest Day and Finding the Resilience to Climb Again

A dramatic account of the deadly avalanche on Everest—and a return to reach the summit. On April 25, 2015, Jim Davidson was climbing Mount Everest when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake released avalanches all around him and his team, destroying their only escape route and trapping them at nearly 20,000 feet. It was the largest earthquake in Nepal in eighty-one years and killed nearly 8,900 people. That day also became the deadliest in the history of Everest, with eighteen people losing their lives on the mountain. After spending two unsettling days stranded on Everest, Davidson's team was rescued by helicopter. The experience left him shaken, and despite his thirty-three years of climbing and serving as an expedition leader, he wasn't sure that he would ever go back. But in the face of risk and uncertainty, he returned in 2017 and finally achieved his dream of reaching the summit. Suspenseful and engrossing, *The Next Everest* portrays the experience of living through the biggest disaster to ever hit the mountain. Davidson's background in geology and environmental science makes him uniquely qualified to explain why the

seismic threats lurking beneath Nepal are even greater today. But this story is not about “conquering” the world’s highest peak. Instead, it reveals how embracing change, challenge, and uncertainty prepares anyone to face their next “Everest” in life.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)

Speaker Bureaus And Talent Agencies

Jim Davidson is available to book via these agencies

✔ Recommended



Speaking Agency



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