

## Guide for Event Planners



# Helen Thayer Keynote Speaker

### Who we are

Helen and Bill Thayer produce educational programs for Adventure Classroom, a Federal 501-c-3 non-profit operating since 1989. The programs are compiled from a lifetime of worldwide adventures that inspire students, kindergarten to high school, to embrace integrity, demonstrate courage, and assume responsibility for their actions.

### Our Mission Statement

The programs enable students to reach their full potential by inspiring all ages to set goals, create a winning plan, demonstrate persistence, and live life without limits. Students are motivated to take responsibility for their lives and actions, to appreciate the diversity of life and human cultures, and to understand the importance of protecting the environment for future generations.

### Intercultural Respect

Essential to Adventure Classroom is cross-cultural communication and respect. Through lectures, images and discussions students are urged to increase their knowledge of worldwide cultures, cross the barriers of language and lifestyle, and promote intercultural respect no matter how remote or how different the lifestyles and beliefs of others.

### How Our Programs are Developed

Using their skills as professional photographers, and writers, Helen and Bill have so far walked over 40,000 miles to the far corners of the planet in their quest to gather research and educational material for in-depth studies of cultures and the geographical environment.



### The Future

Having already walked and kayaked across the Polar regions, the world's major deserts and Amazon River, Helen and Bill continue to plan expeditions for Adventure Classroom far into the future. The next expedition, due to begin in the fall of 2013, is a 1,000-mile walk across Northern India to study the Thar Desert and the region's unique indigenous cultures.

### Contact Information

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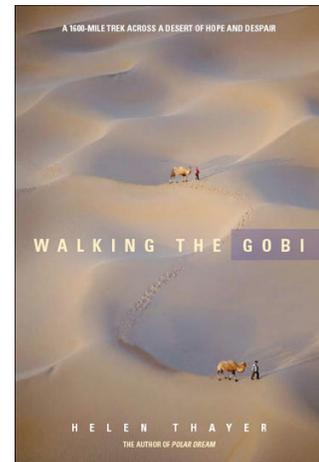
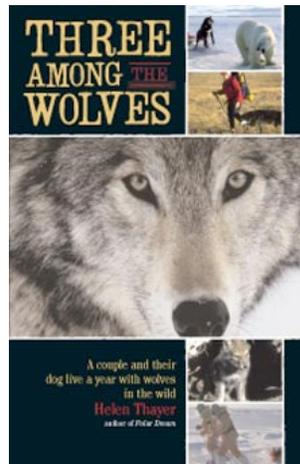
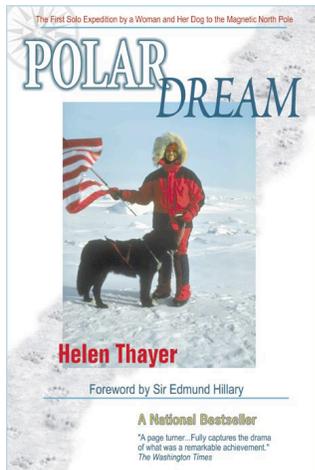
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Books by Helen Thayer:

*Polar Dream* - the story of Helen's expedition to the Magnetic North Pole

*3 Among the Wolves* - Helen and Bill Thayer spend a year observing wolves in the wild

*Walking the Gobi* - documents a 1,600 mile trek across Mongolia's Gobi Desert



## CLIENTS ::

The Boeing Company

US State Department Institute of Women's Leadership

US Army Fort Jackson

Canadian Department of Energy

University of Washington

Colorado Fire Chiefs

Optometrists Association

Trial Lawyers Association

Defense Lawyers Association

Clinical Pathologists Organization

New York Life Insurance Executives

Land Surveyors Association

Million Dollar Round Table

Imagination Celebration Explorer Expo

Girl Scouts of America

Western Bankers Association

Boy Scouts Eagle Awards

Banff Mountain Film Festival

Brazilian Rain Forest Expo

University of Manaus, Brazil

Mongolian College of Arts

National Geographic, Chicago

National Geographic, Seattle

National geographic, DC

Yakima Indian Reservation Community

Invista Corporation, Cordura Brand

Alexander Hamilton Leadership Association

Wings Association

Emory Riddle University

Associated Builders and Construction

Exxon Mobile Corp

Microsoft Corporation

Auckland University New Zealand

Numerous Libraries, Senior Centers and Humane Societies

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Helen Thayer uses her many years of experience in worldwide exploration, illustrated by her dramatic photography, as parables to share valuable lessons that can be applied to everyone's journey through life. Helen's natural sense of humor and gifted storytelling ability has resulted in motivational, inspirational and entertaining presentations. Clients describe her speaking style as electrifying, dynamic, enthusiastic and humorous, yet warmly humble and down-to-earth. Helen is truly a "one-of-a-kind" and her stories, wisdom and adventures are memorable and unforgettable to audiences of all ages.

## What Sets Helen Apart

Named "One of the Great Explorers of the 20th Century" by National Geographic, and honored in a White House ceremony for exploration and athletics, Helen, a most extraordinary and unique senior, continues to push the envelope of achievement and success in exploration. A lifetime of record-breaking expeditions and athletic championships has given her the insight, credibility, and the authenticity to motivate audiences to their ultimate success. Helen is an ongoing inspiration to men and women of all ages to live life without limits and to achieve the impossible. Helen continues to plan for further expeditions. You just never know where she will turn up next!

## Helen's Formula for Success

\* "My solo journey to the Pole was like life itself. We all have our metaphorical North Poles. We can reach them just as I did, one step at a time, never giving up on ourselves."

\* "Set your horizons to infinity, set your goals with a positive commitment to win."

\* "Plan in detail before taking the first step. A goal without a plan is only a dream."

\* "Perseverance overcomes problems, obstacles and the fear of failure. Sometimes it's one day or one step at a time."

\* "Quitting is not an option."

\* "Work in partnership with team members to shape success and lead with confidence."

\* "Age is never a barrier to your ultimate success."

Sir Edmund Hillary (the first person to summit Mt. Everest) on Helen's solo trip to the Magnetic North Pole.....

"Helen Thayer's enthralling story is that of a woman who at the age of 50 took an extraordinary journey that brought her to the edge of emotional and physical survival—an epic undertaking that few people of any age or sex could have achieved. Helen faced sub-zero temperatures, rough and cracking ice, fierce Arctic storms, frostbite, and menacing polar bears. It was her discipline and unwavering motivation that kept her going despite all obstacles until she reached her goal."

## Helen's Keynote Presentations ::

**Polar Dream - Achieve the Impossible:** At 50, Helen made history when she became the first woman to travel alone to the Magnetic North Pole in a 364-mile epic journey of courage and survival. Hear how detailed planning, Helen's belief that "perseverance overcomes problems, obstacles and the fear of failure" helped her triumph over everything the elements threw at her. This remarkable story tells how Helen struggled to reach her goal through violent storms, an explosive tent fire, treacherous breaking sea ice and encounters with the dangerous polar bear. Success was achieved with the help, love and loyalty of a courageous dog named Charlie. Helen's message applies to us all. "My solo journey to the Pole was like life itself. We all have our metaphorical North Poles. But we can reach them just as I did, one step at a time, never giving up on ourselves. Take a visionary look beyond the norm, set your goals with a positive commitment to win." Accompanied by a backdrop of Helen's spectacular photographs, her presentation brings to life the beauty of the majestic Polar Ice Cap, the magnificence of the mighty polar bears and the power of a resolute and indomitable spirit. Helen wrote the bestselling book, *Polar Dream*, (Simon & Shuster and NewSage Press) about her historical journey.

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Helen's Keynote Presentations (continued) ::

**3 Among the Wolves - Daring to Challenge Yourself:** Helen and Charlie, the endearing husky, part-wolf dog the world came to know in Helen's book, *Polar Dream*, are back in a fascinating new adventure. Along with husband Bill, the three spent a year living amid wild Arctic wolves above the Arctic Circle. The goal was to learn the way in which wolves interact as a close-knit family and how they raise their young.

As a result of the study many negative myths surrounding these intelligent and caring animals were completely dispelled. As a helicopter bush pilot in Alaska, Bill witnessed the senseless aerial slaughter of entire wolf packs by hunters. Both Helen and Bill felt compelled to do something they felt was environmentally important. Helen believes that if you "set achievable goals, plan for success, and be persistent, you can achieve remarkable results." Charlie's wolf heritage was the link to the wolves that allowed Helen and Bill to connect to these creatures of the wild. Audiences come away from this presentation with a deeper understanding of how detailed planning, teamwork, commitment, and the ability to adjust your plans at a moment's notice are vital when undertaking a difficult challenge. The inspirational, endearing story opens up a whole new world of information. Audiences gain a new respect for wolves through interaction with this wolf family and their two mischievous pups.

The images accompanying the presentation display rare photography of not only the life of a wolf family but many other Arctic animals such as grizzlies, moose and lynx that inhabit the great tundra plains of the far north. All this, in addition to lessons learned from the experience, make this presentation National Geographic's most popular seasonal program. Helen's book, *3 Among the Wolves* (Sasquatch Books) was a finalist at the Banff Mountain Book Festival. As *Northwest Airlines World Traveler Magazine* noted in its article, "As Jane Goodall was to Chimpanzees, Helen Thayer is to Wolves."

**Walking the Gobi - Quitting Is Not an Option:** At age 63, Helen was the first woman to walk the entire 1,600 miles across the Mongolian Gobi Desert from west to east in temperatures that sometimes rose to 126-degrees. After being involved in a serious car accident Helen was told she might never walk again. Never tell Helen that something is impossible. She refused to give up! Struggling through pain and rehab., she fought back to walk again and eventually embarked on a journey to realize her childhood dream to trek on foot across one of the most forbidding deserts on Earth. Along with husband Bill, two camels she named Tom and Jerry that served as supply carriers, and still dealing with the results of her injuries, she kept going for 81 pain-filled days of sand storms, life-threatening thirst and killer heat - yet with her innate sense of humor intact. This is a story of a vision that became a goal. As Helen says, "A goal without a plan is simply a dream." Helen tells of the detailed planning, a total commitment to win, courage, perseverance, teamwork and the fight to rise above adversity brought them through to a successful end of their journey across the Gobi. This presentation will motivate any audience to new heights of endeavor and a determination to cross their own symbolic deserts, or face their real life troubles, in spite of obstacles and setbacks. As always, Helen's remarkable photographs of the desert and the indigenous people of the region that she and Bill encountered illustrate her presentation. You can't help but come away from this presentation without a better understanding of the skills and qualities that will help anyone conquer insurmountable odds in their own lives. Helen's third book, *Walking the Gobi*, (Mountaineer Books) chronicles this amazing journey.

## Tailored Content ::

While her themes have universal appeal, Helen can tailor the content of her keynote presentations to meet the needs of your organization; the presentation can emphasize various topics.

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## SAMPLE INTRODUCTION ::

You are in for a real treat today with our guest speaker Helen Thayer.

At age 50, Helen became the first woman to walk to any of the world's poles when she trekked solo to the Magnetic North Pole. She is also the first woman to walk across the 4,000-mile Sahara Desert and the 1,600-mile Mongolian Gobi Desert.

She and her husband Bill have kayaked over 2,000 miles in the Amazon.

They lived with caribou and wolves in Alaska and with the Maasai and Bushmen tribes in Tanzania.

Helen represented three countries in track and field and later won the United States national luge championship.

Helen and Bill are still walking hundreds of miles in the remote corners of the world pursuing their work to develop educational programs for Adventure Classroom, which provides educational materials for student kindergarten through grade 12.

Helen and Bill, both seniors, show through example that age is no barrier to achievement.

Helen's audiences have ranged from the Russian Kremlin, the White House, Microsoft, other corporate forums, to groups of a few dozen school children.

She has been presented as a National Geographic Explorer, a Reader's Digest guest speaker, and she has appeared on Good Morning America and the Today Show.

Sit back and enjoy this intimate and unforgettable look into her record-breaking accomplishments. Using adventures as metaphors, Helen will inspire you to reach your personal and professional goals. . . against the odds. . . through courage, persistence and commitment to action. Please join me in welcoming National Geographic explorer and author Helen Thayer!

## AUDIO VISUAL REQUIREMENTS ::

Helen provides:

Mac laptop computer with program images loaded

A hand-held "slide switcher"

Apple mini DVI to VGA adapter

If the facility has professional projection equipment we prefer to use it. We can bring a 4000 lumen projector if necessary,

Helen requires:

A large, good quality screen

A podium if possible, but not absolutely necessary

A sound system – we do not provide audio equipment.

The computer should be placed so that Helen can see the laptop computer screen as she presents her program.

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