

Who Is Ann Bancroft?

Ann Bancroft is an American woman who lives outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was born in 1956 and grew up in Minnesota and in Kenya, Africa. After graduating from college, Ann became a teacher in Minnesota. She taught physical and special education in Minneapolis. Ann has also been a coach. She has coached softball, basketball, track and field, volleyball, and tennis for people of all ages. She has also helped people with and without disabilities to enjoy outdoor and wilderness activities. She has been involved in education for 17 years.

Ann has taken part in many expeditions in the past. In 1986, Ann was the only woman to travel with Will Steger's North Pole Expedition. She dogsledded 1000 miles (1600 km) from the Northwest Territories in Canada to the North Pole. In 1993, Ann led the American Women's Expedition (AWE) to the South Pole. Over the 67 days, the four women skied 660 miles (1060 km). Ann is the first known woman in history to travel over the ice to both the North and South Poles.

Some of the awards that Ann has received include:

- Being inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (1995)
- *Ms.* magazine's "Woman of the Year" (1987)

Ann has been in many magazines and newspapers including:

- *National Geographic*
- *Sports Illustrated for Kids*
- *USA Today*
- *People*
- *Shape*
- *Vogue*