

# User Manual

## Lightrek™ 3 Poles

### **Recommendations for Use**

Lightrek™ 3 poles come without straps for several reasons. First, the goal was, believe it or not, to minimize the weight. Nylon webbing, at the cutting edge of ultralight where we live and work, turns out to be one of the heavier components that we utilize. The second reason for not having straps is it would add unneeded complexity to the handles. The final reason is there was some concern that straps would encourage people to use the straps to apply stresses to the poles beyond normal working strength. Most testers who bemoaned the lack of straps found they liked the poles better without straps, after using them for a few trips, because of the extreme light weight. This applied even to some pretty rabid strap users.

### **Baskets**

Lightrek poles come with included trekking baskets. Field testing has noted that they tend to loosen themselves during use, and can slip off unnoticed by the side of the trail. For this reason, you may want to use a dab of silicon sealant, or a small strip of duct tape, to keep the baskets from loosening. If you do lose a basket, replacements are available from Gossamer Gear.

### **Care**

At about a quarter of the weight of the next lightest poles, Lightrek poles are obviously not as robust as other trekking poles on the market. We feel they are an appropriate balance between weight and strength for people who are extremely committed to having the lightest weight equipment. With that commitment comes the responsibility to potentially replace the poles more often than heavier poles. Testing has confirmed that the poles are prone to breakage if the tip gets lodged between rocks. For this reason, we recommend keeping the trekking baskets installed at all times, just to help prevent the tip from getting in tight spots where breakage is likely. **KEEP IN MIND THAT BREAKAGE OF THE POLE IS NOT CONSIDERED A MANUFACTURING DEFECT UNLESS THERE IS SPECIFIC EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.** For extreme activities where the reliance on sturdy poles is necessary, you may want to choose a different brand.

