First Pitch
In order to familiarize yourself with your new tent, we suggest that you “test pitch” it before embarking on a wilderness trip.

Select a Site
Look for a level spot that is protected from the wind in order to ensure sleeping comfort. Clear the area of debris such as sharp stones and sticks which might abrade or puncture the tent floor. Choose an area that will drain well when it rains.

Unfold the Tent and Assemble the Poles
Unfold the tent and lay the floor flat on the ground with the door unzipped. Carefully unfold the shock corded pole sections and allow them to slide together. Do not allow the poles to snap together. This can lead to serious pole damage. Make certain that the insert of each pole section is fully inserted into the next pole section (Figure 1). You will have four straight poles, one arch pole, and one shorter brow pole.

Stake Out the Floor
We recommend staking the floor prior to inserting the poles for greater pitching ease. Although the Stretch Dome Expedition AST is a totally freestanding tent, we suggest that you always stake the floor for greater safety and stability, especially in high winds. First stake each of the webbing loops at the back of the tent at points G and H (Figure 2). Next, move to the front of the tent, pull the webbing loops at points A and B until the tent floor is squarely and semi-tautly positioned, and stake them down. Finally, stake the sides at points C, D, E and F, again pulling the tent floor semi-taut.

Erect the Tent
Insert the tips of one of the straight poles into the grommets at points A and H, and the tips of a second straight pole into the grommets at points B and G (Figure 2). Pull the two poles up so they intersect at point I and attach the Clip and G (Figure 2). Pull the two poles up so they intersect at point I and attach the Clip and G (Figure 2). Finally, attach all Swift Clips along this pole’s path. Repeat this process with the remaining poles, one arch pole, and one shorter brow pole. Insert the tips of one of the straight poles into the grommets at points A and B, arching the pole around the back of the tent. Finally, attach all Swift Clips along this pole’s path.

Tighten the adjustment straps. Working your way around the tent again, follow the same procedure for points C, D, E and F. Now stake out the adjustable vestibule loops at points L, M, N and O. Tighten these to the desired tautness.

Ventilation
Proper ventilation is essential for creating a comfortable living space inside your tent. The vestibule door panel can be raised away for maximum ventilation, or guyed out in an awning-like fashion. Because the rainfly has an awning over the door, you can often leave the door tied open in a rain storm, provided the door faces away from the wind. When the door in the rear of the rainfly is left open or partially open, it effectively improves flow-through ventilation. Additionally, the zippers at the top of the vestibule and back door can be used to regulate ventilation. Stake out the center back of the rainfly (point N) further enhances ventilation by increasing airflow under the fly.

Internal Guy System
Years ago, Sierra Designs was the first to introduce the revolutionary Internal Guy System. This system remains a very important feature in our Convertible and 4-Season tents. When installed, this simple system will greatly increase the strength of your tent with the weight of a few guy cords. This system is very useful in extreme weather conditions, but is not necessary under normal conditions.

Installation: All attachments are made inside the tent. All that is needed are 4 pieces of guy cord of 100” length or longer (line tighteners may be used but are optional). Some of these items have been provided complimentary with your tent. There are nine webbing loops sewn to the interior of the tent body; one in each corner of the floor at points A, B, G and H (Figure 6) and one at each of the pole intersection points in the ceiling at points O, P, Q, R and I.

Start by tying one end of a cord through the webbing loop in the ceiling at point Q. Secure the other end at point A with a double half hitch or one of the completed guy cord bow knots (Figure 5). Repeat this procedure for lines between points B and O, G and R, H and P and N. Points I is the apex of the tent and is not part of the Internal Guy System. Use point I as a hang loop. The Internal Guy System will partially obstruct the doorway. If you want to know the cord out of the way when entering or exiting the tent, simply loosen the cord and pass it through the loop in the ceiling.

Please note that 11 tent stakes and 12 guy cords were provided with this tent as a courtesy. If you choose to use more than this when pitching your tent, additional stakes and cord may be purchased at the store where you originally purchased your tent.

Your Sierra Designs STRETCH DOME EXPEDITION AST (Arch Support Technology) tent is very easy to pitch and maintain. Follow these instructions to pitch your tent quickly, safely and easily.

### STRETCH DOME EXPEDITION AST TENT CONTENTS

- **Tent Body & Rainfly**: 1
- **Line Tighteners**: 12
- **Pitching Instructions**: 1
- **Tent Poles**: 6
- **Tent Stakes**: 12
- **Jake’s Corner Instructions**: 1
- **Guy Cord**: 1
- **Tent Poles**: 6
- **Jarke’s Corner Assembly**: 4
- **Pole Sack**: 1

* Sierra Design tents include stakes for pitching the body and fly under normal conditions. Additional stakes may be required in severe conditions.

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