



**If** you see it here, it has passed a grueling test. All year long, we've been testing gear on trips from the canyons of Capitol Reef to the heights of the Himalayas. After narrowing the field to 25 potential winners, nine editors descended on Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park and Sangre de Cristo Range in November. Frigid temperatures, long miles, and tent-crushing winds narrowed the field even further, and a week later we emerged with a consensus: 14 Editors' Choice winners, plus one Gold Award for a timeless performer and two Green Awards for products on the leading edge of sustainability. And the winners are...



### Nite Ize S-Biner

Don't ask yourself if you need this useful little widget. The question is: How many?

Few things rival duct tape and super glue in the cost-to-versatility department. To that short list, add these S-shaped, double-gated carabiners. We used them to:

- Attach (and quickly detach) water bottles, GPS units, solar panel, camera bags, and sandals to our packs
- Rig guylines and deadman anchors
- Temporarily fix ripped tent fly corners
- Clip a bear bag to a rope
- Hang a headlamp from the tent ceiling
- Lock zippers together on baggage

Note: The biggest size holds up to 75 pounds. \$2-\$3.50; 5 sizes, up to 1 oz. each; (800) 678-6483; niteize.com. Reader service #114



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**Backpacker Magazine  
Editor's Choice Award  
2008  
Nite Ize S-Biner**