

Mountaineering in Ecuador

A Wolfgang Schlitz Adventure Fund Application:
Richard Trierweiler '05 and Joe Hanlon '05

Basic Stuff

- Applicant Name(s) and Year(s): Richard Trierweiler '05 and Joe Hanlon '05
- Intended destination: Ecuador
- Dates of the trip: December 8-21, 2004
- Are you applying as an individual, or as a group? We're applying as a group, so this is it as far as applications go.

- The goal of this trip is to attempt an ascent of Chimborazo, elevation approximately 6310 meters, as well as several smaller peaks.
- We're doing almost two weeks of hiking and mountaineering in advance so we can both practice the necessary safety skills, get ourselves acclimated, and work our way up to the bigger mountains.

Money, Money, Money

Budget (per person):	\$950	
• Flight	\$600	Round trip from USA to Quito, Ecuador.
• Food	\$140	\$10/day (average – markets are cheaper but with some potentially interesting side effects).
• Lodging	\$140	\$10/day (average – camping will be cheaper, hostels a bit more expensive).
• Local Transportation	\$70	\$5/day (average, some days we hike, others take cabs, others take buses).
Group Costs:	\$400	
• Chimborazo Guide	\$200	\$100/day for two days
• Equipment	\$100	to cover rentals for standard gear that we don't already own, as well as some extra safety gear.
• Misc. Costs	\$100	Joe's photo stuff, phone cards for emergencies, anything we buy there.

TOTAL COST: \$2300 = \$950+\$950+\$400

Other (per person):	\$550+	these items have uses beyond this expedition, so aren't part of the budget persay
• First Aid/Health	\$150	vaccinations and medications
• Equipment	\$400+	stuff that we want to own anyway, but are getting with this trip in mind.

How much are you asking for from the DOC: \$1200, or \$600 each.

What, specifically, these funds will pay for: Up to \$600 each could help subsidize our travel to and from Ecuador. We could also use help subsidizing the costs of local transportation, rental equipment, and hiring the guide required to ascend Chimborazo safely, if the DOC would rather help us out with that stuff.

What other sources of funding you are applying for (or have already received), and how much from each?

We aren't applying for other sources of funding, since there really aren't any for this sort of thing. We are, however, paying a large portion of the costs ourselves: food and lodging, our first aid/health stuff, a good amount of equipment that we're each buying, and any miscellaneous stuff that comes up.

Expedition Itinerary

- Nov 31 Richard arrives in Quito and will spend the next week hiking and climbing with a guide.
 - Dec 8 travel to Cerro Paschoa, acclimate (mainly for Joe at this point).
 - Dec 9 ascend Cerro Paschoa (4200m).
 - Dec 10 recover, travel to Cerro Imbabura.
 - Dec 11 ascend Cerro Imbabura (4609m).
 - Dec 12 recover, travel to Tungurahua.
 - Dec 13 ascend Tungurahua (5016m).
 - Dec 14 recover, travel to Cayambe.
 - Dec 15 ascend Cayambe (5790m).
 - Dec 16 recover, travel to Cotopaxi.
 - Dec 17 ascend Cotopaxi (5897m).
 - Dec 18 recover, travel to Chimborazo.
 - Dec 19 ascend Chimborazo (6310m).
 - Dec 20 travel to Quito.
 - Dec 21 Joe and Richard depart from Quito.
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- We probably will cancel or change some of these ascents, depending on what our bodies are telling us to do.
 - Before our departure we will have worked out much more specific details, when reasonable. We can easily just camp out and catch rides, but are going to try to plan out as much as possible.

Objective Risks and Risk Management

- **Geographic and Environmental:** We will be above 1600m for our entire stay in Ecuador. This eliminates the risk of malaria and yellow fever while putting us risk for elevation sickness, but we will have medication on hand if either of us has a problem. We're both trained to recognize HAPE and HASE, have each been to 14,000' previously without any difficulty.
- **Social and Political:** Richard can speak Spanish, sort of anyway. We've also reviewed the updated US State Dept. travel and health advisories and have taken them into account in planning our trip. Our stay in urban areas will be brief (limited to flying in and out of Quito) and we're avoiding the more unstable rural areas (generally near Colombia). We're aware of the problems related to crime that other visitors have experienced, and how to best avoid them. We'll be leaving a copy of our itinerary with our families in the US as well as at the US Embassy in Ecuador, and we already have contacts within the country (from contacting a guide service). Have I mentioned that we're staying the hell away from Colombia?
- **Risks posed by the activities proposed:** We will be avoiding avalanche prone areas and for the one or two routes which do include an avalanche prone area, we will be traversing the area very early before the day has warmed up, or avoiding the route all together if the danger is significant. We will make a concerted effort to stay hydrated, we know the symptoms for altitude sickness and will be acclimating gradually using the idea of train high, sleep low. On exposed terrain we will be using rope and protection in a simul climbing fashion. We will also hire a guide for our attempt on Chimborazo, along with Richard having a guide while he is there alone, so he will not be hiking alone. We will also continue to train aerobically to make sure that we are physically fit so our bodies can better deal with the stress of high altitude hiking and mountaineering. We will be using *Climbing and Hiking in Ecuador* (by Rachowiecki and Wagenhauser) to plan our routes along with information received from guides, other climbers and the caretakers at some of the mountain huts.
- **Other risks:** If you can think of anything that we haven't thought of, now would be a great time to let us know.

Relevant Experience

- Richard:

Certifications:

- Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)
- And probably some other stuff too.

Trips:

- Lots of stuff, he'll tell you more later.

Leadership and Outdoors Stuff:

- Lots more stuff, he'll tell you more later.

- Joe:

Certifications:

- National Ski Patroller
- Outdoor Emergency Care Technician
- NSP Level 1 Avalanche Training

Trips:

- Three years of hiking and winter mountaineering.
- Katahdin Trip 2003, including training in crampon/ice axe use.
- Winter trips to Mt. Washington, Franconia Ridge, and all over the White Mts.

Leadership and Outdoors Stuff:

- Cnt Council / Chair
- OLE (Outdoor Leadership Experience)
- DOC Directorate / President
- DOC Trips Leader 2002 and 2003
- Photography Internship in Acadia National Park, August-September 2004.

Why We're Doing This

- Learn introductory level glacier travel skills as well as practice more advanced techniques.
- Gain experience planning more serious expeditions than the usual DOC trip.
- Get to travel around the world and backpack around as well.
- Physical challenge (really really hard).
- Physical and mental accomplishment (high!).
- We've already learned a lot about the history/geography, and will continue to do so.
- Joe - Continue photography in an amazing setting, and as an anthro major, this should be a good cultural experience.
- Richard – Gets even more experience, and also gets to practice speaking Spanish.
- Two of our DOC/CnT mentors, who were 02's, visited Ecuador years back and highly recommended Ecuador for our experience and fitness level. And they're almost as excited as we are, just thinking back on it!

Benefit to the DOC

- Joe will be around for a minimum of two more years after graduating this spring and will be leading lots of trips in that time, including many winter trips.
- We'll take bunches of pictures for a slideshow and will submit a travel log of some sorts to Woodsmoke when we return from Ecuador.
- We'll be able to help other people when they are planning similar trips in the future.
- We'd like to take underclassmen, but after asking around a lot we couldn't find any interest. But if anyone knows, well, anyone who has the required skills and is fit enough, we'd really really like to take two more people with us so they can get the experience as well.
- We get the DOC back to an amazing place that the club hasn't visited in a while (6 years or so?).
- A record of the trip, our planning, and all the logistical stuff will be provided to the DOC library so other people can expand on what we'll have done.
- Richard hopes there will still be ice left at the beginning of spring term so he can go climbing and, if there is appropriate ice, lead a beginner trip and possibly some sort of mountaineering trip in the White Mts. Richard will be heavily involved with the DOC in the spring term since he will not be taking classes.