



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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From July 5-18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the world's most famous blind athlete, Erik Weihenmayer, working with educational nonprofit organization Global Explorers, will be traveling with a group of blind and sighted students to hike in the Peruvian Andes. This is the second time that Erik will be leading an expedition of this nature, giving blind and sighted students the unique opportunity to work together as a fully integrated team. During this 12-day climb, twenty four students from the United States and Canada will learn about Incan culture through immersion and participation in local community projects while developing unparalleled leadership skills.

This is a story that will inspire both blind and sighted people to achieve their goals. This is a story that will break down barriers and tackle the silent prejudices that we carry about what is possible. This is a story that will re-affirm the notion that each of us has the power to create change in the world. The experience promises to push the students to their limits, force them to trust each other with their lives, and leave them forever changed.

The program is organized by nonprofit organization Global Explorers ([www.globalexplorers.org](http://www.globalexplorers.org)). A documentary was made of the first trek through the Andes with blind and sighted students in 2006, entitled *Fellowship of the Andes* (<http://inca.pilgrimm.com/>).

**WHAT:** World famous blind athlete Erik Weihenmayer and eighteen blind and sighted high school students from across the United States and Canada take a twelve day journey along parts of the Inca Trail in the Peruvian Andes.

**WHO:** Erik Weihenmayer - The first blind man in history to reach the summit of Mount Everest; featured in award-winning movie *Farther Than the Eye Can See* and upcoming A&E movie, *Touch the Top of the World* (June 11<sup>th</sup> debut). Erik has been featured on NBC's *Today Show* and *Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*, *Oprah*, *Good Morning America*, and the *Tonight Show* to name a few. He has also been featured on the cover of *Time* magazine and in *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, and *Men's Journal*.

Ten legally blind/visually impaired and fourteen sighted high school students from select high schools from Colorado, Massachusetts, Florida, Tennessee, Virginia, Texas, New Hampshire, South Carolina, California, Missouri, Georgia, Indiana and Ontario, Canada.

Global Explorers is a nonprofit organization that provides life-changing international immersion programs for youth.

**WHEN:** July 5-18, 2007.

**WHERE:** Huascarán National Park near Huaraz, Peru.

**RECOMMENDED VISUALS/TOOLS:**

Photos from the April preparatory retreat in Estes Park, Colorado.

Live day-by-day coverage in the Andes, complete with photos and journal entries from the field, during the full length of the journey via the Global Explorers website.