



## Leading the Way 2009: Iztaccíhuatl

Every Mexican citizen knows of two of Mexico's highest volcanos, Izta and Popo, that watch over Mexico City. Legend says that the tragic love of the Aztec princess Iztaccíhuatl and the warrior Popocatépetl was immortalized in Itza's womanly shape and Popo's fiery emotion. Though few have explored their talus slopes up close, they have a beauty, a history and a palpable presence that transcends their stunning visual prominence.

In June 2009, an unlikely team of blind and sighted students from Mexico and the United States will set off on an extraordinary journey of leadership, discovery and adventure with Global Explorers and world renowned blind climber Erik Weihenmayer. Their goal: to reach the higher limits of **Iztaccíhuatl** and, in the process, to break down barriers and misperceptions about living with disabilities.

### Sharing this story with the world

Coinciding with the Spanish translation of Weihenmayer's book *Touch the Top of the World* and the Mexican premiere of his film *Blindsight*, the climbing expedition seeks to challenge, inspire and educate. Through imagery and stories collected by sighted and blind students on their climb as well as at high profile events in Mexico City, we will share their story with the world.

### Creating confident leaders

This Global Explorers Leading the Way expedition strives to teach: awareness, acceptance and tolerance; self-confidence and leadership skills; appreciation of global interdependence; and a sense that students of all ages and abilities have a role to play in making a positive difference in the world today.

### Global Explorers

Global Explorers is the Colorado-based nonprofit coordinating all the details of this expedition. Its Leading the Way Program began four years ago as a dream of Erik Weihenmayer, world-renown blind climber. The program teams high school and college students who are blind/VI and sighted as well as deaf/HH and hearing, for an unparalleled adventure exploring science, service, leadership, and culture. Since its pilot trip four years ago, hundreds of students have traveled on life-changing expeditions across the world and inspired millions more through Leading the Way Features on the Travel Channel, ABC, and CBS Sunday Morning.

Ribbit






A Nonprofit Organization  
www.globalexplorers.org

**Come Discover  
Classroom Earth!**



### Program Highlights

-  Both blind and sighted Mexican and American students will climb Iztaccíhuatl with world renowned blind climber Erik Weihenmayer.
-  Break down barriers and misperceptions about living with disabilities
-  Attend VIP events around the Spanish-edition release of Erik's book *Touch the Top of the World* and Mexican premier of his movie *Blindsight*.

### Program Itinerary

- 6 Jun - Arrive in Mexico City
- 7 Jun - Team building, preparation, and service project in Amecameca
- 8 Jun - Reforestation project at base of volcano with local school
- 9 Jun to 11 Jun - Acclimatization hikes and climbing Iztaccíhuatl
- 12 Jun - Cultural Activities in Mexico City and Dinner in the Dark fundraiser
- 13 Jun - *Touch the Top of the World* book release event and *Blindsight* screening
- 14 Jun - Que le vaya bien! Return home to USA



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## Leading the Way Iztaccíhuatl 2009: Descubre tus Sentidos

### Participating Organizations and People

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#### Chicago Lighthouse

The Chicago Lighthouse will recruit 10 blind and sighted U.S. participants from the Chicago area. The Chicago Lighthouse is a not-for-profit agency committed to providing the highest quality educational, clinical, vocational and rehabilitation services for children, youth and adults who are blind or visually impaired, including deaf-blind and multi-disabled. Through its comprehensive range of programs and services, the Chicago Lighthouse respects personal dignity and partners with individuals to enhance independent living and self-sufficiency. The Chicago Lighthouse is a leader, innovator and advocate for people who are blind or visually impaired, enhancing the quality of life for all individuals involved and for the community.

[www.thechicagolighthouse.org](http://www.thechicagolighthouse.org)



#### Erik Weihenmayer

On May 25, 2001, Erik Weihenmayer became the only blind man in history to reach the summit of the world's highest peak – Mount Everest. Additionally, he is the only blind person to have climbed the "Seven Summits," the tallest peak on every continent. He has scaled the 3000 foot rock face of El Capitan, skied down the tallest peak in Europe, and guided Tibetan blind teenagers to 21,500 feet on the north side of Mt. Everest. Erik is also a prolific speaker and author of two books. [www.touchthetop.com](http://www.touchthetop.com)

#### Ojos Que Sienten

Ojos que Sienten is the Mexican nonprofit organization recruiting the Mexican Participants. The mission of Ojos que Sienten is the inclusion of people with different characteristics into the social, educational and working environments by training them and at the same time sensitizing society to living with disabilities through artistic experiences. [www.ojosquesienten.com](http://www.ojosquesienten.com)



#### Sustenta

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