
	Climb for Leaders Ultimate Student Challenge	International and service trips normally offered by schools
Essay	Requires a thoughtful essay that engages students, and helps them begin to understand the challenges of the area they will be visiting	No essay required
Physical training	Extensive physical training required, with the help of coaches at the school, in order to be physically fit for the challenging mountain treks	No training necessary
Fund-raising	Each student is required to raise funds as part of a team, to be contributed to the project they will be supporting, an environmental project they select, and as loans via www.Kiva.org . The target is US\$10,000 for the team. The funds can be tax deductible through the school’s foundation, or sometimes, directly through the service organization. Funds raised can normally NOT be used for personal expenses, only for projects. Funds cannot be secured from own parents.	Fund-raising is often for personal expenses, and is not tax deductible. There is no minimum fund-raising target.
Expedition	Every Student Challenge involves a tough expedition that stretches students to their limits: Mt. Kilimanjaro, Annapurna Base Camp, Lares Range, Fansipan, Cotopaxi area, etc. are just some examples. Hence, prolonged training is a requirement, enhancing discipline.	Usually do not involve mountain expeditions
Exploration	Machu Picchu, Safari, Galapagos, Amazon Rain Forest, Ha Long Bay and other natural and man-made wonders offer excellent cultural and sight-seeing opportunities	Generally offer excellent cultural and sight-seeing opportunities
Service project	Students spend 5 to 7 days at the service project where they will contribute their funds. Wherever possible, the emphasis is on developing deep bonds with young students in the developing world through skills transfer and interactions , and increasingly, less and less emphasis on physical building of schools, etc.	Programs often focus on the physical aspects of the project, like building schools / classrooms / painting walls etc.

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	<p>because these can be contracted locally, creating local jobs.</p>	
<p>Environmental sustainability</p>	<p>Students are each required to select one environmental project in the country they will be visiting that they would fund. All students then pool their ideas, and through rigorous debate, further research and analysis, are required to come up with ONE project that the entire group will fund. We recommend setting aside 10% of funds.</p>	<p>Most programs generally limit environmental consciousness to contributing to carbon offset programs, unless the entire program has an environmental focus</p>
<p>Wide-spread benefits</p>	<p>Through setting aside 10 to 15% of funds raised to be offered as loans via www.Kiva.org, schools have the opportunity to involve many more students than just the ones on the expedition in better understanding the challenges of development, how resilient and self sufficient the poor can be, and the often large impact that small micro-finance loans can have. Hundreds of other students can also participate as the funds are reloaned.</p>	<p>Benefits generally limited to those participating directly in the trips</p>
<p>Program costs</p>	<p>Competitive and offer great value, especially given the mountain treks involved, which are generally costly, and their all inclusive nature – all meals, tips, fees, etc.</p>	<p>Varies</p>
<p>Preparation and length</p>	<p>Program prep starts early – 3 to 6 months – and programs are generally 18 to 21 days in duration</p>	<p>Not much lead time – programs are generally 10-14 days</p>

June 21, 2010