

November 12, 2009. Fort Collins, Colorado — Late yesterday afternoon, an unlikely *Global Explorers* group of blind, visually impaired and sighted young adults from Mexico and the United States successfully reached the upper limits of Mexico's 3rd highest volcano Iztaccíhuatl (5,230m; 17,159ft)! The team now moves to Mexico City for events featuring the release of the Spanish translation of Erik Weihenmayer's memoir *Touch the Top of the World* and the Mexican premiere of his film *Blindsight*. The mission of the expedition is to help break down the barriers and misperceptions between those with and without disabilities.



A sighted student from the Denver Center for International Studies and a blind student from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs are team members. The Fort Collins-based nonprofit Global Explorers ([www.globalexplorers.org](http://www.globalexplorers.org)) organized the expedition with Mexican nonprofit Ojos que Sienten (Sight of Emotion) ([www.ojosquesienten.org](http://www.ojosquesienten.org)). In addition to Colorado residents, the team is comprised of students from Calgary, Alberta, Little Rock, Arkansas and Chicago, Illinois. The team was accompanied by Erik Weihenmayer, the only blind person to reach each continent's highest peak, his climbing partner Jeff Evans and US Army Specialist Steven Baskis. Baskis lost his sight while conducting combat operations in Iraq when an electronically formed projectile exploded near his vehicle in May 2008.

The Global Explorers Leading the Way Expeditions strive 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.

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