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Eliza Cummings, 14, a sighted student from the Denver Center for International Studies, guides US Army Specialist Steve Baskis, 23, up Mexico's third highest peak: Iztaccíhuatl. On May 13, 2008 Baskis lost all of his vision in combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. He is still on active duty in the United States Army.



US Army Specialist Steve Baskis, 23, rubs warmth into his hand as he embraces the summit of Mexico's volcano Iztaccihuatl on November 11, 2009, Veteran's Day. Baskis lost his vision and sustained left arm ulnar artery nerve damage in combat operations in Iraq on May 13, 2008. Baskis's mantra: "You must have the strength to accept what you cannot change."



The unlikely team of Mexican, American and Canadian participants celebrates at 17,000 feet on the Mexican Volcano Iztaccíhuatl. The group was made up of blind and sighted participants and was accompanied by Erik Weihenmayer, the only blind man to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. The Fort Collins-based nonprofit Global Explorers (www.globalexplorers.org) partnered with the Mexican NGO Ojos que Sienten (www.ojosquesienten.org) to coordinate the program.