



2009-2010 Bike Expedition Crewmember Job Description

About Reach the World

Imagine school assignments that allow kids to roam the globe and learn about interesting places and people while studying math, science, or reading. Through Reach the World's (RTW) programs, thousands of elementary and middle school students in New York City and Chicago public schools are doing just that!

Reach the World is an educational non-profit that exposes socially and racially isolated inner-city students to countries, cultures, people, environments, and wildlife from around the world. We do this by connecting students via the internet to real-world expeditions traveling across the globe. These expeditions develop exciting, age-appropriate social studies and science materials that teachers integrate in the weekly curriculum.

This year, over 2,250 Chicago Public School students are following the Bike Africa Expedition, an 8,000 mile, unsupported pedal-bike trip from Cape Town to Cairo. As the four Bike Africa crewmembers travel, they serve as the "eyes and ears" for students and teachers. Each week, expedition team members:

- research and write educational articles that are posted on our website
- answer student questions via email
- collect primary source information for classroom research projects
- video-conference with students back in the states

In conjunction with our online materials, Reach the World also provides support services to over 80 partner classrooms in Chicago including:

- two classroom visits from the expedition team
- classroom interns from local colleges and universities
- technology support
- field trips
- teacher professional development

Reach the World provides all services free of charge to schools.

About Bike Expeditions

In fall 2009, Reach the World's Chicago branch will launch its second transcontinental bicycle expedition. The expedition route will travel approximately 7,000 miles through either Central and South America or Southeast and East Asia (ultimately decided upon by the crew). Expedition team members will explore stunning landscapes, unique animals, and colorful cultures while traveling in an environmentally friendly and personally challenging manner. The team will spend about two-thirds of their nights camping, and one-third in home-stays or hostels.

The expedition will run from September 2009 through June 2010, however training and preparation will start in Chicago this spring. Reach the World will provide all expedition equipment including expedition bicycles outfitted for transcontinental journeys.

General Job Description

Reach the World is currently hiring full-time Bicycle Expedition Team Crewmembers to start in September 2009. Informal training and preparation will start in the spring of 2009.

Reach the World's Expedition Crewmembers sign contracts for the duration of the school year (September – June). Reach the World covers all crewmember living and travel expenses and provides health and disability insurance during the contract term. In order to participate, a crewmember must meet the minimum fundraising requirement outlined in the Secondary Responsibilities section.

Requirements:

- Bachelors degree
- Excellent writing and editing skills
- Willingness to work as a field reporter under challenging conditions
- Demonstrated ability to work in a deadline-driven environment
- Ability to bike at least 60 miles per day by end of training in September 2009

Pluses:

- Currently live in the Chicago metro area
- Foreign language skills
- Background in the education and/or writing/publishing field(s)

Primary Responsibility - Resource Development:

Throughout the course of the expedition, Crewmembers will develop engaging educational materials for Reach the World's Chicago classrooms. Specifically, crewmembers will:

- Research countries, environments, and cultures
- Develop relationships with representatives in destination countries (teachers, guides, government officials, other educators, etc.)
- Conduct interviews in destination countries related to curricular themes
- Write and edit materials for weekly posting to the web site
- Communicate with students and teachers via email and video chats
- Take part in reviews of the web site and overall program
- Write and compile materials for the Reach the World newsletters and other publications

Primary Responsibility - Expedition Life:

Crewmembers will be responsible for all tasks associated with planning and running a long-distance bicycle expedition including:

- biking 60-100 miles per day, four to five days a week
- carrying approximately 70 pounds of gear and food on the bike
- provisioning and cooking
- researching and planning out daily routes
- preparing for journeys through isolated areas
- performing maintenance on bicycles and gear
- visiting remote environments and cultures
- functioning as a supportive and energetic team member in challenging circumstances with little privacy

Secondary Responsibility - Fundraising:

In order to be eligible for the expedition, **crewmembers must fundraise \$7,500** for Reach the World. Reach the World will provide fundraising ideas and materials. All donations made to Reach the World are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Crewmembers must meet the following fundraising goals:

- **Upon acceptance of the position (approximately March 21st):** \$1,000 non-refundable deposit (Since this is most likely an out-of-pocket expense, it may be reimbursed if more than \$7,500 is raised)
- **June 7th:** \$3,250
- **August 16th:** \$7,500

If crew members do not meet the above goals, they are subject to being replaced by an alternate crewmember. All donations are non-refundable.

Employment Start Date:

September 1st, 2009. Crewmembers are responsible for their own transportation to Chicago, after which time Reach the World will assume all costs of travel. Training and preparation will start in the spring of 2009.

Application Due Date:

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until March 20th. Interviews will be offered on a rolling basis starting on March 9th. All crew decisions will be made by March 31st.

**How to Apply:**

Submit the application below to Brian Sabina, Chicago Program Director (brian@reachtheworld.org). NOTE: only emailed submissions will be accepted.

More information about the organization can be found by exploring our web site: www.reachtheworld.org. Please research the organization extensively before submitting materials.

We will contact you if we wish to interview you for a position. Please submit materials that will speak eloquently on your behalf. As we receive a high volume of submissions, please do not follow up unless you are contacted.

If you have questions that are not answered by this job description, please email brian@reachtheworld.org.

As an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, Reach the World actively seeks applications from candidates of color, women, and candidates committed to our focus on children.

2009-2010 Bike Expedition Crewmember Application

Dear Prospective Applicant,

Thanks for your interest in becoming a crewmember on Reach the World's 2009-2010 Bicycle Expedition!

After reading the Crewmember Job Description and exploring our website please email us the following documents:

- **Resume**
- **Answers to the personal information and short-answer questions:** please submit your answers in a separate document and limit your responses to 1,500 words total
- **Writing Sample:** please submit a 500-word sample biography. Use the Bike Africa Journey's biographies at www.reachtheworld.org as examples
- **A photo of yourself** (optional)

Please zip all documents into one file and email them to Brian Sabina, Chicago Program Director (brian@reachtheworld.org).

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We look forward to reading your application and learning more about you!

Fair Winds,
The Reach the World – Chicago Team

Personal Information:

At the top of the document please provide us with the following information:

Name:

Address:

Primary Telephone (please indicate home, mobile, work):

Secondary Telephone (please indicate home, mobile, work):

Email:

Nationality:

Additional Languages:

Short-Answer Questions:

Please answer *all* of the questions in Part I and *two* of the questions in Part II. Keep your short-answer responses to a total of 1,500 words or less. We value the quality of answers not their length. Please number your responses.

Part I:

1. Why do you want to travel as a “virtual educator” on an expedition?
2. Describe a situation in which you traveled somewhere and experienced something new. How did you deal with the situation? What did you learn?
3. Have you ever held any positions in the field of education? If yes, describe your role(s) as well as the population served (age, demographic).
4. Describe your experience as a writer and editor. Have you ever held any positions in these fields? Be specific about what role(s) you’ve played.
5. Teamwork is a crucial part of being on a Reach the World expedition. Please tell us about a situation when you worked as part of a small team to overcome a challenge.
6. It is often said that our “extraordinary experiences” as learners constitute the foundation for our personal development and mark the turning points in our life paths. Please describe an extraordinary experience that you have had, either as a student or as a teacher, and explain why this experience was/is important to you.
7. Please describe your strengths and weaknesses as both a leader and a team member.
8. What do you most look forward to about being on an expedition? What makes you nervous?

9. Everyone deals with tense and stressful situations differently. What is your personal approach?
10. Biking across a continent is a mentally, physically, and emotional challenging experience. What previous experiences have helped prepare you to take such a journey?

Part II:

1. If selected, what are your personal goals for the expedition?
2. What country in would you most like to visit? What is one topic that you would really like to cover in that country? (The country you select does not have to be a part of the bike expedition)
3. How would you describe your sense of humor?
4. What three personal items would you bring on the expedition?
5. Who is your favorite super-hero and why?
6. What will you miss the most while on expedition?