



Chile 2010

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Thank you for expressing an interest in the forthcoming Borders Exploration Group expedition to Chile. The proposed departure date is likely to be early July 2010 for some 3 to 3½ weeks, depending upon final flight arrangements. The final team will consist of: about ten leaders, two doctors, and about 25 venturers. All successful venturers will be between 16 and 24 years old by the date of departure and must be resident within the Borders area.

We are a local organisation run by volunteers. The group has been on the go for some 15 years, in which time they have achieved a range of highly successful activities i.e. local activity days, survival weekends, challenge days for schools and businesses, European expeditions lasting two weeks and the major biennial expeditions, which have travelled to Lesotho, Ecuador, Kenya, Mongolia, India, Peru, Vietnam and Zambia

The formats of the major expeditions have followed a similar pattern, where the expedition is split into four phases. These phases can be separate or run alongside each other.

- **COMMUNITY**, In the past, we have assisted in constructing schools, community centres, health centres and repairing roads under the guidance of the local community we are visiting,.
- **ADVENTURE**, whether trekking, white water rafting, horse riding or mountain hiking is your thing, we have undertaken challenging activities in some of the most spectacular places in the world. Chile's spectacles include the Andes Mountains and the Atacama desert.
- **SOCIAL**, each member of the team, either individually or a part of a small group will observe and research a particular aspect of life in Chile i.e. schools, healthcare, housing, religion or festivals, so that a report or booklet can be compiled for use by schools or organisations on our return.
- **SCIENTIFIC/ENVIRONMENTAL**, one of the best ways of really appreciating the environment you are visiting is to get involved with it. Previous expeditions have collected plant samples for the Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh, planted trees to try to reverse deforestation, repaired paths in National Parks and worked with organisations to help endangered species.

We will be looking for a range of skills and experience from potential venturers but in particular the qualities of; cooperation, commitment, enthusiasm, versatility and a good sense of humour. Experiences of Camping, Navigation, and First Aid etc are not necessary as a full and varied training programme will be undertaken. However a reasonable level of fitness would be advantageous.

When completing your application form please be honest, we do not expect everybody to have done everything. This expedition is about providing young people of the Scottish Borders with an opportunity to do something new and challenging. The closing date for application forms and references is Thursday the 23rd of April. A short-listing process will be undertaken and the venturer selection day will be held on Sunday the 10th of May. All short-listed applicants must be able to attend this day.

All successful team members will be expected to attend training days/weekends over the next 14 months, the first of which is likely to be on Sunday the 14th of June. The final cost to each individual will be in the region of £2000 (dependant on flight costs) and all venturers will be expected to undertake fundraising activities to cover this amount. Advice and support will be given on fundraising and the best way to go about it.

If you can get access to the Internet I would recommend looking up our website at www.borders-exploration-group.org.uk where there are some great pictures and written reports about the most recent expeditions to Peru, Vietnam and Zambia.

Lastly please, when you are returning the application form, can you please print it and post it (with enough postage), rather than e-mailing an electronic version.

Thank you for your interest so far and I hope to hear from you soon

Jim McPherson