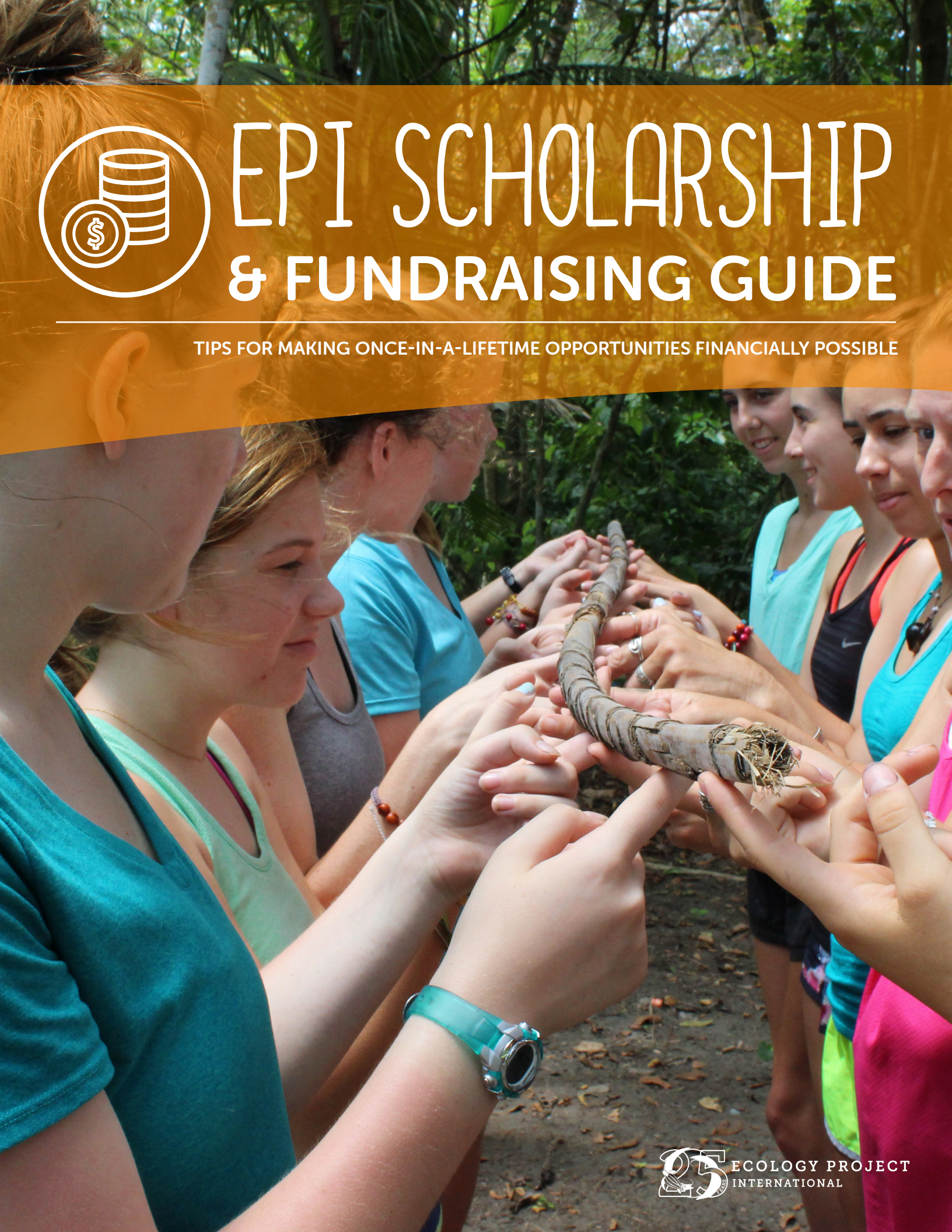




EPI SCHOLARSHIP & FUNDRAISING GUIDE

TIPS FOR MAKING ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES FINANCIALLY POSSIBLE





Parents & Students:

Welcome to the world of Ecology Project International! EPI is a non-profit that's dedicated to improving science education and inspiring environmental conservation efforts. We do that through our field programs, where students get to study the natural world, contribute to on-going research, and have fun while doing it. That's our passion, and we want to share it as widely as we can.

In many of the countries where we operate, this kind of hands-on science programming is hard to come by, and most of our charitable efforts are directed toward those communities. Every year, EPI provides educational programming for thousands of students in Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, and beyond. We do it because science education and local engagement are fundamental for protecting our planet. The tuition you pay for an EPI program helps make it a reality.





For our US students, we've developed a suite of options that make our programs more accessible. You'll find details in the pages that follow. It's worth saying that much of this funding was made possible by individual donors, families, and grantors that recognize this is more than just a travel program; it's essential work. I hope, after your EPI experience, you'll come to see it the same way.

Thanks,
Lisa Macki
Admissions Director
Ecology Project International

Did you know?
89%
of EPI's participants are underserved
local students living near our project sites!





 OPPORTUNITY	 DESCRIPTION	 AWARDS	 APPLICATION DETAILS
EPI's Student Financial Aid	<p>Our needs-based scholarship program is designed to make our field courses financially feasible for a wider range of applicants.</p> <p>EPI does not set baseline minimums or maximums for qualifying need. All completed applications will be reviewed within the context of the current applicant pool.</p>	\$200 - \$600	<p>There are two applications cycles for Student Financial Aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall application deadline: October 31 Spring application deadline: February 28 <p>More information: http://www.ecologyproject.org/financialaid </p>
Zarri Scholarship	<p>In partnership with the Montana Community Foundation, this scholarship provides funds for one student traveling to any of EPI's Costa Rica programs.</p>	\$1100	<p>Students that apply for fall financial aid and are enrolled in a Costa Rica course will automatically be considered. Notifications will be made by mid-December.</p>
EPI's Student Scientist Award	<p>Funds are available for individual students (not traveling with a school group) that are registered on one of our international field programs who exhibit excellence in the study of biology, ecology, or environmental conservation.</p>	\$300 - \$400	<p>Science teachers may nominate a single student for the award by contacting EPI directly. Students must be nominated in order to qualify.</p>
SYTA Road Scholarship	<p>Provided by the SYTA Youth Foundation, the Road Scholarship Program was founded in 2002 to give scholarships to youth that would be unable to otherwise afford the cost of educational group travel.</p>	Maximum of \$1000	<p>There are two application periods for the Road Scholarship, one in the fall and one in the spring. Students must be nominated by a teacher in order to qualify.</p> <p>More information: www.sytayouthfoundation.org/road-scholarship </p>
The Going Aboard Scholarship	<p>Since 2017, Going has helped young travelers get out there and get going. Twice a year, two outstanding undergraduate and graduate students are awarded \$1,500 scholarships towards their upcoming study abroad program.</p>	\$1500	<p>Must be enrolled in a credit bearing higher education study abroad program.</p> <p>Application deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring: March 15th Fall: March 15th
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program	<p>For college undergraduate students, the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad.</p>	Maximum of \$5,000	<p>There are two application cycles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring: Open January-March Fall: August-December <p>More information: https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/ </p>



ONLINE FUNDRAISING PLATFORM

EPI'S ONLINE FUNDRAISING PLATFORM

Similar to Kickstarter, GoFundMe, or other online "crowdfunding" sites, EPI's Online Fundraising Platform is a tool students can use to collect money for their upcoming field course. The best part is 100% of financial support applies directly toward student tuition.

Since its inception in the fall of 2017, EPI students have raised more than \$100,000 using the platform. Students that have used the tool have raised an average of more than \$500 each.

Directions: Once a student enrolls in a course, they will receive a student account for submitting course paperwork and payment. From within that account, students can easily upload a photo and generate their own crowdfunding webpage. By sharing it as much as possible on social media and email, students can raise significant funds for their tuition.

The screenshot shows a fundraising page for Ecology Project International. The header includes the EPI logo, navigation links (Courses, Get Involved, Our Impact, Give, About EPI), and buttons for ENROLL and DONATE. The main heading is "Help Send Student Name to Belize!". Below this is a paragraph about the student's experience in Belize. To the right is a photo of the student, a young woman with blonde hair. Below the photo are social media share buttons for Facebook and Twitter. A progress bar shows "\$500 of \$3400 goal". Below the progress bar is a "SPECIAL THANKS TO:" section listing donors: \$250 - Gramma & Grandpa, \$100 - Uncle Paul, and \$150 - Coach Amy. On the left, a box shows "My Outstanding Balance" of "\$2990" and a "SPONSOR NOW" button. Below this is a video player titled "Redefine the Classroom - Belize" with the EPI logo. At the bottom, there is a section titled "ABOUT THE COURSE" with a paragraph about the field experience. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states: "Because students derive a direct educational benefit from EPI's program, payments or gifts designated specifically for an individual student are not tax-deductible."

Help Send Student Name to Belize!

On 6/8/2020, I head to Belize as part of a unique, hands-on field experience with Ecology Project International, but I can't get there alone. Your sponsorship will make it possible for me to participate in this life-changing course, where I'll conduct my own research, engage in conservation work, meet with locals, and return home ready to share and apply everything I've learned.

My Outstanding Balance
\$2990

SELECT AN AMOUNT:
☐ \$300 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

SPONSOR NOW

*Please allow 24 hours for payment to be reflected online

Share on Facebook Share on Twitter

\$500 of \$3400 goal

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- \$250 - Gramma & Grandpa
- \$100 - Uncle Paul
- \$150 - Coach Amy

Redefine the Classroom - Belize

ECOLOGYPROJECT INTERNATIONAL

ABOUT THE COURSE

Spend your days away from the tourist areas of the country, where you'll witness the rich cultural and biological diversity of Southern Belize. Help restore a threatened riparian forest along the Columbia River. Monitor manatees in the protected waters of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve and snorkel azure waters near Snake Caye. Explore the many ecosystems found in Payne's Creek National Park from broadleaf forests, herbaceous marshlands, to saline and hypersaline lagoons.

*Because students derive a direct educational benefit from EPI's program, payments or gifts designated specifically for an individual student are not tax-deductible.

Your photo here

Amount received thus far

Secure portal for accepting support





EQUAL EXCHANGE ORGANIC GOODS



Equal Exchange is a cooperative that provides luxury organic goods like coffee, tea, and chocolate through long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound. Though they are unaffiliated with EPI, their message of social and environmental care resonates with our values, and we encourage our participants to utilize them for fundraising.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 40% Profit on Sales
- Organic and Fairly Traded Goods
- Includes chocolate, coffee, olive oil, tea, and more
- No minimum order or upfront costs
- Free catalogs and posters
- Free shipping for wholesale orders over \$135
- Guaranteed delivery within 10 business days

For more information, visit: www.equalexchange.coop/ee-and-you/fundraising





FUNDRAISING

EIGHT GREAT FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- 1) Write Letters of Support** Write a letter to a local business asking for support. Make sure you describe the research and conservation work you'll do on course, and be sure to personalize the message. Don't forget to follow up with a phone call!
- 2) Hold a Yard Sale** Who doesn't have stuff they need to get rid of? Toss it all into the yard. Reach out to friends and families for donations. Post signs and sell some lemonade while you're at it. Every bit counts.
- 3) Provide a Service** Offer your friends, relatives, neighbors or parents' coworkers a service in return for a contribution. You can rake leaves, shovel snow, babysit, collect recycling, wash cars, walk dogs, mow lawns, etc.
- 4) Host a Chili or Spaghetti Feed** Organize a dinner for your school or community and charge a fee. Make sure the dinner is something that can easily be made in large quantities, and advertise widely!
- 5) Organize a Cake Walk** Sugar, flour, eggs, music, construction paper, and some tickets. Mix it all together and what do you have? A Cake Walk.
- 6) Ask for Cash in Lieu of Gifts** This year, let your family members know that an EPI trip is all you want for your birthday and the holidays.
- 7) Enter a Contest** Work on your essay writing or photo taking skills by entering a contest. Maybe you'll take home a cash prize!
- 8) Do a Run-a-thon** Good at running? Swimming? What about walking? Turn it into a fundraiser by getting donors to pledge so many dollars per mile. At EPI, we're especially fond of the [Handstand-a-thon](#).

