



# EPI SCHOLARSHIP & FUNDRAISING GUIDE

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



ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL



## 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,  
**Kyle Watson**  
*Admissions Director*  
Ecology Project International

Did you know?  
**83%**  
of EPI's participants are underserved  
local students living near our project sites!





 OPPORTUNITY	 DESCRIPTION	 AWARDS	 APPLICATION DETAILS
<p><b>EPI's Student Financial Aid</b></p>	<p>EPI's Student Financial Aid is a need-based scholarship program 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>	<p><b>\$300 - \$600</b></p>	<p>There are two applications cycles for Student Financial Aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall applications: October 31, 2022</li> <li>• Spring applications: February 22, 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>More information:</b>  <a href="http://www.ecologyproject.org/financialaid">http://www.ecologyproject.org/financialaid</a></p>
<p><b>Zarri Scholarship</b></p>	<p>Lisa and Phillip Zarri established an endowed, need-based scholarship fund because of the impact EPI had on their two children.</p> <p>In partnership with the Montana Community Foundation, the scholarship provides funds for one student traveling to any of EPI's Costa Rica Programs.</p>	<p><b>\$1100</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>EPI's Student Scientist Award</b></p>	<p>EPI's Student Scientist Award is a merit-based scholarship awarded to students who exhibit abiding passion and excellence in the study of biology, ecology, or environmental conservation.</p> <p>Funds are available for individual students (not traveling with a school group) that are registered on one of our international field programs.</p>	<p><b>\$300 - \$400</b></p>	<p>Science teachers may nominate a single student for the award by contacting EPI directly. Students must be nominated in order to qualify.</p>
<p><b>SYTA Road Scholarship</b></p>	<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 group, educational travel.</p>	<p><b>Maximum of \$1000</b></p>	<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><b>More information:</b>  <a href="http://www.sytayouthfoundation.org/road-scholarship">www.sytayouthfoundation.org/road-scholarship</a></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.

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](http://www.equalexchange.coop/ee-and-you/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](#).

