

## 'Thank You' Letter

I would like to express my sincere thanks for sponsoring me to go on an Earth Watch expedition. I am excited to be able to bring back to my students what I have learned and to involve them in understanding the effects of climate change and how they can have a positive impact on their local climate.

I believe I am returning to my class as a better teacher with the ability to make better real world connections for my students.

Thank you again.

Holly Dong

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Dear REEF Committee,

I am writing to express my gratitude for having been selected and having participated in EarthWatch's Teach Earth program.

Because of your sponsorship, I was able to join the research group Tracking Caterpillars in Tropical Forests at the University of Reno, Nevada Lake Tahoe campus.

The expedition that I participated in was fun, interesting, and educational. And, the scenery and fresh air was amazing! We were at 9,000 ft elevation and there was still snow in the Sierra Nevada!

Our group assisted various Doctoral Candidates to collect data for their research. Our work consisted of setting plot boundaries, beating bushes and plants to harvest caterpillars and identify the host plants while making note of predators found on the same plants. We collected, labeled, photographed caterpillars, and learned how to run a caterpillar zoo. I learned what a parasitoid is and why they are important in controlling the caterpillar population. Our group also assisted in catching butterflies and recording the type of butterflies. We sure found some beauties!

I learned about environmental issues, the fragility of the ecosystem, and the importance of participating in and spreading awareness of conservation to help the sustainability of our planet.



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Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this expedition. It was truly educational and inspirational. This trip has brought me a greater awareness of our Earth. I believe this experience will make me a better teacher as I share with my students what I have experienced.

I am also very proud that I could in some small way contribute to those researchers that are working hard to improve knowledge, complete their thesis, and publish their work.

Now I know that every individual can contribute to a sustainable planet!

Sincerely,  
Delia Cortez  
Kindergarten Teacher, Longfellow Elementary School

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Esteemed donors,

I'd like to take the time to thank you for sponsoring my participation in Teach Earth. Specifically the expedition that gave me the opportunity to participate in research dedicated to conserving the areas in Golfo Dulce in Costa Rica, home to bottlenose and pantropical spotted dolphins and currently, humpback whales. This experience has positively impacted me as an educator and human being. I look forward to educating my students and community on such important topics, like research and conservation. I have always appreciated animals and nature, but had a fear of the unknown in the outdoors. This experience has shaped me into a person who would like to continue participating in more expeditions to learn, explore, and help conserve different parts of the world! I did not think it was possible to be outdoors and not mind the buzzing of many different insects. I am now more conscious of the way that my actions could affect our planet and its inhabitants. Please know that you were able to light a fire in me that had always been there, but only emerged because of this opportunity. I hope to fuel this same fire within my students who are especially intrigued by the challenges faced by many of the ecosystems, habitats, and different regions in our planet. This life changing expedition would not have been possible without your help.

Thank you,  
Maria Fernanda Lizarraga



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I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your generous support that made my recent trip to Costa Rica possible. Your contribution has not only enabled me to embark on an incredible journey but has also enriched my professional growth and personal experiences in ways that I could never have imagined.

The opportunity to conduct research with a group of educators in Costa Rica was nothing short of transformative. It provided me with an invaluable chance to collaborate with fellow teachers, exchange ideas, and gain insights that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on my teaching methods and curriculum development back home.

As I reflect on the memories created and the knowledge gained during this journey, I am reminded of the immense impact that your philanthropy has on individuals like myself. Your generosity has not only fulfilled a dream but has also paved the way for a brighter future for the students I teach and the educational community I am a part of.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this opportunity a reality. I am committed to sharing the knowledge and insights I have gained with my colleagues and students, thereby perpetuating the positive change that your support has set into motion.

Reina Ali