

## Expedition assistant profiles

### Personal info -

**Name** Lorna O'Brien

**Position** Expedition assistant

**Responsibilities** Assisting the leader in the welfare and education of the team.

**Destination** Argentina

**Qualifications held** ML training, BOF level 1, Lea Walking Guide

**Experience working with young people prior to going on expedition**

Worked as team leader at Cannock base camp summer 2008, employed at a sports college delivering fitness and health education to local Secondary and Primary schools. delivered Duke of Edinburgh and Btech outdoor education. 5 years in the air training corps

**Developing world travel experience** North Africa

**What's the best piece of advice you've ever had?**

Always be prepared!!! (that's from my cub and scouting days)

**Favourite piece of kit?** Gaffer tape



### The position -

**Why did you apply for the role?** The opportunity to travel and develop my own role as a facilitator

**Employment situation prior to expedition?** Team leader with World Challenge at Cannock base camp

**Current employment?** School Programme Manager for World Challenge

**Favourite moment on expedition?** Having a whale blow spit in my eye!! (yes that how close we got to them)

**Most challenging moment on expedition?** Ligament injury- worth it though during a white water rafting session

**In your opinion what attributes make a successful Expedition**

**Assistant?** Flexibility, communication, empathy, assertive, understanding and awareness other needs, reading a situation

**What do you think (if anything) you gained personally from the position?**

Concreted my love of facilitating and making a real difference to youngsters. being part of something they will cherish for the rest of their life (and mine too)

**Where would you most like to go next and why?** Anywhere I have the chance to, possibly India or Africa, for the remoteness and not many people have the chance to work in such a fantastic backdrop with great people.

### **Personal info -**

**Name** Geors Richards

**Position** Expedition assistant

**Responsibilities** To assist

**Destination** Malawi

**Qualifications held** Basic Expedition Leadership Award

**Experience working with young people prior to going on expedition**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award leadership and some seasonal youth work

**Developing world travel experience**

India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Mexico, Morocco, Cuba

**What's the best piece of advice you've ever had?** Listen to your instinct

**Favourite piece of kit?** Sleeping bag



### **The position -**

**Why did you apply for the role?**

I was attracted to the challenge and responsibility of the job and the opportunity to inspire adventure and learning in young people...

**Employment situation prior to expedition?**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award development officer

**Current employment?**

Voluntary Service Overseas Global Xchange Programme Supervisor

**Favourite moment on expedition?**

The massive sense of achievement and satisfaction felt by the group seeing the playground they built first being used by the local community.

**Most challenging moment on expedition?!**

Resisting the temptation to swim in the Bilharzia ridden but very enticing Lake Malawi

**In your opinion what attributes make a successful Expedition assistant?**

An ability to inspire, support and get on with young people is important. Also being adaptable, resourceful and physically fit will serve you well.

**What to do think (if anything) you gained personally from the position?**

I never expected to enjoy myself as much as I did on expedition. It was a really challenging and rewarding position to be in, I learnt a lot and met great people along the way.

**Where would you most like to go next and why?**

Honduras. I'm like scuba diving even more than trekking!