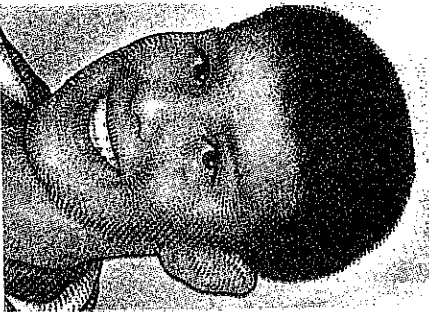


DONOR OF THE DAY | By Melanie Grayce West

Teen Tries to Share Travel Adventures With Others



Stan Rosenberg

Stan Rosenberg believes high-school students need a vacation.

So he's sending a few deserving and needy Westchester and New York City high school students on all-expenses paid, two- to four-week adventures.

Along the way, teens camp, hike, surf, whitewater raft and travel through four or five states, visiting landmarks ranging from Mount Rushmore to the Grand Canyon and the Golden Gate Bridge. Students even get a video camera to document the travel.

Mr. Rosenberg, 19 years old, is a sophomore at New York

University studying marketing and finance. He was inspired to start his New York-based nonprofit, Trip of a Lifetime, a few years ago after his parents sent him on a similar, solo vacation when he was in high school.

At the time, he'd never been away from his parents for more than a few days and he found that traveling alone helped to build his confidence and expand his interests. He made a lot of friends during the trip, too.

He also realized that he was fortunate to be able to afford such a trip. So he wanted to

provide something similar to teenagers who can't spend the \$5,000 or so to take an eye-opening vacation.

"I believe that every student, no matter how rich or poor they are, should have the ability to travel and get a new perspective of the world," says Mr. Rosenberg.

In three years, Mr. Rosenberg has financed trips for 12 freshman and sophomore high schoolers and raised more than \$100,000 for his nonprofit through small fund-raisers, T-shirt sales, online auctions and community concerts. Mr. Rosenberg, a few

friends and his family help to coordinate the nonprofit so that all donations go toward the student grants.

This coming summer, he hopes to send 10 to 12 students on vacations. Trips are organized through a teen tour company and include insurance and spending money for souvenirs and incidentals.

The goal is for students to focus exclusively on the trip and not worry about the cost. Students submit applications for a travel grant through their school counselor and are selected based on an essay, grades and financial need.

"What we are really looking for are students who have a passion for travel and discovery and use their experience to become a catalyst for change in their community," says Mr. Rosenberg. "We're looking for those kids who aren't just going to sit back and say, 'Wow, this is cool,' and then move on."

Mr. Rosenberg says that students who take the most photos and are the most engaged on the trip "make the biggest difference using their trip to have the best platform to launch the rest of their lives."

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