Kurt Hahn

“There is more in you than you think.”
UWECA is committed to building on the legacy created by International School Moshi (ISM) and this is no different for ISM's 50 year history of running Outdoor Education (OP) opportunities for students.

The Moshi Campus has always been fortunate to have one of the most iconic and challenging hiking landmarks in the world in its backyard. Mt Kilimanjaro, standing at 5895m above sea level, is the highest land based free standing mountain in the world and highest mountain on the African continent. It attracts thousands of tourists every year. From the beginning ISM school trips have been taken on this mountain and over the years has grown into a programme to create a pathway for young students to learn about the challenges and the skills required in mountain hiking, starting with shorter expeditions to mountains in the Northern Tanzania region.

Arusha Campus is not without its own landmark, albeit lesser known. The Campus uses Mt Meru, 4566m, as its backdrop and although a mountain with less altitude than Mt Kilimanjaro, in many ways it is more of a technical hiking challenge. We use this as our Level 4 expedition to prepare students for the rigours of performing at altitude.

Having these amazing landmarks to challenge and push our UWCEA students is not all that we are about! Yes, they are extremely prestigious and demanding challenges, however there is so much more that Tanzania has to offer your child in the pursuit of outdoor enlightenment. As we have moved to join the UWC movement we have recognised the need to diversify our programme to offer more variety to cater for the vast array of landscape, nature, and experiences in Tanzania.

This has led to the development of 3 more branches of the UWCEA OP over the past 3 years. We have always had the Mountain Hiking which we have branded as our "Peaks" programme. The first new addition was the cycling branch where students can cover a large amount of terrain, riding through local villages, forested areas of both Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru, go on game rides through Arusha National Park as well as many more adventures. We have branded this as our "Rides" programme. The next addition has been a water-based programme where, for the first time, we have introduced service learning with our OP programme. In this branch students are introduced to some rigorous swimming/snorkelling challenges in the early levels to make sure by level 3 they are ready to become PADI Open Water Divers. They then become ocean advocates as they build coral nurseries and help to regenerate coral reefs. This we have branded as our "Reefs" programme. Lastly, we have taken advantage of the amazing mammal diversity and density in Tanzania and created what is essentially a walk safari programme. Students will walk in protected areas, accompanied by rangers, to view natural wonders such as the great migration and be exposed to Giraffe, Zebra, Antelope, Hyena, and many more wonderful Tanzanian animals. We have branded this our "Plains" programme.
Meet the team?

Isaac Foya – Campus Leader Moshi Campus

Isaac is the very meaning of UWCEA Outdoor Pursuits. He has been leading Mt Hiking trips for the school for over 20 years and has summited Kilimanjaro over 100 times.

Isack Igenge – Campus Leader Arusha Campus

Isack is our newest member of the team having joined to better facilitate Arusha Campus participation in the programme. He loves the outdoors and is hugely experienced whether it be running expeditions or running ultra-marathons in the mountains.

Salimu Ismail – Equipment & trip Coordinator Moshi Campus

Salim has been with the Outdoor Pursuits programme for nearly 10 years. He is the go-to man for equipment borrowing or repairs and is now assisting with the leading of various Mt Hiking trips.

Robin Marsh – Head of Experiential Learning Moshi Campus

Robin started out assisting with the admin for the OP on Moshi campus as the programme grew and has been the instigator and facilitator of the Reefs programme, both for the OP and the service elements. A keen diver and general water baby.

Phil Bowen – Head of Experiential Learning Arusha Campus

Phil is the Head of Campus in Arusha, however, is a very experienced safari guru who takes every opportunity possible to get out to the bush and experience nature at its best. He also has a passion for passing on his love and knowledge of the African Wilderness.
What you should bring if you want to take part in the Plains Programme!

Our OP store has most items for hire for our expeditions, however if you are serious about summiting Mt Kilimanjaro, here is a list of items highly recommended that you bring.

**Hiking boots**
**Thermal long underwear (legging & upper body)**
**Hiking backpack**
**Warm fleece**
**Warm gloves**
**Synthetic pants and shirts**
**Hiking socks**
**Down Jacket/pants**

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**Peaks**

As with all our OP trips we have a 5 Level Peaks system to ensure that we have taken students into some of the most challenging environments, prepared and ready to face whatever is thrown at them. As the first programme and by far the longest running programme we have several trips for each level to ensure that our students have a variety of opportunities to complete levels and diverse experience options.

Our Level 1 trips take students all over Northern Tanzania, from Longido to the Pare Mountains. They will learn how to set up camp, pack bags, hike with their equipment, look after themselves regarding nutrition and hydration and work as a team to ensure all members of the group are successful.

As they progress through the levels, they will build on the aforementioned skills and by level 3 will be expected to take on Mt Hanang, a short though very steep and challenging hike or the Usumbara's which has less of the challenging terrain, however, will get the miles into their legs as they cover much great distances. This then prepares them for the challenges of Level 4, Socialist peak (Mt Meru) is a test technically and will introduce them to the hardship of hiking at altitude, while the Ngorongoro trip will have them covering vast distances each day while walking amongst the Tanzanian wildlife.

As our new National Committee Diploma students essentially only have one and two thirds of a year to go through the levels, we have designed special Level 1B trips to test the students a little more and give them the chance to progress straight to our Mt Hanang Level 3 trip and making it more likely that any students wishing to progress to the summit trip can.
What you should bring if you want to take part in the Plains Programme!

Our OP store has most items for hire for our expeditions, however if you are serious about hiking through the great migration, here is a list of items highly recommended that you bring.

- Hiking boots
- Thermal long underwear (legging & upper body)
- Hiking backpack
- Warm fleece
- Synthetic pants and shirts
- Hiking socks
- Personal Binoculars

Plains

If walking on the same trail as Hyena has passed in the night is something that excites the adventurer in you then this is the branch of the OP for you. It is the newest instalment to our programme and started with the idea that not all students want to hike up and down mountains, however, still want to explore and camp with their friends and has morphed into a Safari hiking programme.

The early levels, like the Peaks programme, is about learning how to pack your bags properly to be prepared for any eventuality, resilience through covering large distances, setting, and breaking camp and working as a team to ensure all members of the trip enjoy and can succeed on expeditions. During these trips students will hike through areas which are not protected, though are known as game corridors, so what animal life they will see is always a surprise.

By Level 3 they will be walking through game areas, seeing wildebeest, zebra etc. The Level 5 will involve a hike starting at the border of the Serengeti at the time that the Great Migration will be in the area and having their calves. Students will make their way across the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, taking in the vistas of Nasera Rock and finishing through the Ol Karien Gorge where students will witness the nesting cliffs of the Griffon Vultures.

This is truly a nature lovers’ programme, which will inspire, enthral, and challenge students constantly.
What you should bring if you want to take part in the Rides Programme!

Our OP store has most items for hire for our expeditions, however if you are serious about your Mountain Biking, here is a list of items highly recommended that you bring.

**Mountain Bike (good quality)**

**Hiking backpack**

**Warm fleece**

**Synthetic pants and shirts**

**Helmut**

**Cycle gloves**

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**Rides**

This is the second branch of the programme started here at UWCEA. It has been a slow burner gathering momentum over the last 3 years. It starts off with some beautifully picturesque lower-level trips on the foothills of Mt Meru and Kilimanjaro where students will get to see the real Tanzania as they ride through villages scattered through the forested mountains and on the dusty plains.

By Level 4 students have proven their ability to control a bike and so are ready to go on a safari ride through the Arusha National Park, where they will encounter Giraffe, Zebra, Waterbuck, Water Buffalo, Warthogs, and many more of Tanzania's wonderful wildlife, all with Mt Meru as their backdrop. From here they will continue down the Maasai step to the Chemka Hot Springs to relax and bathe their aches and pains in some of the clearest and perfectly temperate water on the planet.

These levels again are designed to prepare students for the challenges of Level 5 where students will be taking on the 250km circumference of Mt Kilimanjaro. Starting at our Moshi Campus students will be taking hidden trails through the Mweka and Marangu forests, stopping to refresh themselves at waterfalls along the route. They will continue onto the Northern face of the Mountain where they will be greeted by visas of Kenyan plans. As they approach the western side of the mountain, they will come across vast areas of farmland with views of the Maasai step with the high probability of an Elephant encounter.
What you should bring if you want to take part in the Reefs Programme!

Our OP store has most items for hire for our expeditions, however if you are serious about saving coral reefs, here is a list of items highly recommended that you bring.

- Rock/Water shoes (sturdy)
- Rash/Surf/UV shirt
- Thigh length swimsuit
- Snorkel and Mask
- Swim fins
- Waterproof camera

Reefs

This programme was introduced as an alternative to the hiking/biking OPs for those students who love the water. After finding a suitable location which could safely cater for 40 students in kayaks, on boats and diving we quickly learnt about the plight of the Northern Tanzanian coast and the issues facing our oceans today. That is why our Reefs Programme is the first to offer sustainable and impactful service as part of the programme. Through the levels students will engage in beach cleans, artificial coral reef ball construction, coral nursery creation, coral planting, artificial coral reef creation as well as cleaning and maintenance of artificial reefs and coral nurseries.

The first 2 levels are dedicated to building student’s confidence in the ocean and discovering the huge variety of marine life in and around the Tanga coast. They will also witness firsthand the destruction caused by drag, dynamite, and over fishing in the same area. Here we hope they will develop a real appreciation for the sea and develop authentic concern for the plight of our oceans.

The Level 3 trip students will obtain their PADI Open Water diving certification, or if they already have this their Advance Diver as well as taking part in service learning. This is all preparation for the Level 4 & 5 trips where students will hone their diving skills during recreational dives, service dives cleaning artificial reef balls, creating coral nurseries and planting corals.
Costs

To offer all these unique experiences to your child there is obviously going to be costs to be covered.

Although we do try to keep the costs as low as possible there are several factors out of our hands such as the Tanzanian Parks Authority charges, the regulations for number of porters, rangers’ fees etc. Some trips you will find different pricing depending on the student’s status, for example Ngorongoro Conservation Area charges far less for a Tanzanian citizen than an expatriate. Usually for trips into national parks or wildlife management areas there are 3 cost tiers, they are Tanzanian citizen, expatriate resident or expatriate visitor. The price also usually differs for students below 16 and for students 16 and above.

To help students to attend more trips UWCEA has budgeted for new students to get one first trip fee, meaning they can take a Level 1 or 1B trip for free in our Plains, Peaks or Rides branches of the programme. To give an idea of what trips cost here is examples of the costs for trips in 2020/21 OP year.

Plains
- Level 1 - $25
- Level 2 - $35
- Level 3 - $50
- Level 4 - $230 (Wildlife Management Area)
- Level 5 - $575 (Ngorongoro Conservation Area)

Peaks
- Level 1 - $35
- Level 2 - $90
- Level 3 - $100
- Level 4 - $475 (National Park Fees Apply)
- Level 5 - $925 (National Park Fees Apply)

Rides
- Level 1 - $25
- Level 2 - $35
- Level 3 - $40
- Level 4 - $200 (National Park Fees Apply)
- Level 5 - $300

Reefs
- Level 1 - $75
- Level 2 - $95
- Level 3 - $550 (includes $450 for life long PADI Open Water Diver Certification)
- Level 4 - $310 (includes 2 recreational dives and 3 service dives)
- Level 5 - $310 (includes 2 recreational dives and 3 service dives)
Kurt Hahn

“There exists within everyone a grand passion, an outlandish thirst for adventure, a desire to live boldly and vividly through the journey of life.”