

ANDERSON FOUNDATION INITIATIVE – CORDILLERA BLANCA, PERU

The Cordillera Blanca (White Mountain Range) in Peru is an internationally celebrated destination for mountaineering and trekking, attracting upwards of 5000 visitors per year. Tourists to the area enter the mountains and valleys to climb and hike, some on their own (without guides), some with foreign companies and staff, and others having contracted a local mountain guide to show them the way and keep them 'safe'.

There is a "House of Guides" in Huaraz which was set up in an effort to provide training for the local people who lead climbing and trekking expeditions, to bring & maintain international safe guiding standards to the area, and to serve as an information hub and rescue center when accidents occur. In addition, there is a "High Mountain Rescue Corp" run by the National Police that is supposed to aid in any rescue or recovery effort in the area.

At first glance, it seems as though the Cordillera Blanca has a proper safety net in place for its many adventurous visitors; after all, there are trained guides and a rescue squad always on alert. This is a dangerous assumption that is made again and again by those entering the mountains in the area. The unfortunate reality however, pervading both the guiding community and their supporting management is characterized by a very loose understanding of in-field risk management, zero wilderness first-aid training for guides, limited rescue resources, and a complete lack of organization when emergency action is required. And often times, lives are on the line...

On July 31, 2010 Tyler Anderson had an accident on Yanapaqcha in the Cordillera Blanca and was killed in the fall. The delayed rescue effort highlighted many of the shortcomings in the emergency response system in Huaraz. While Tyler, thankfully, did not personally suffer from these deficiencies, out of respect and in loving memory of the adventure-seeker that Tyler was we would like to make some improvements that will increase both the safety and emergency response in the mountains that our friend loved so well.

With the creation of the Anderson Foundation and support and donation from those who knew and loved Tyler, we are setting up a project in Huaraz to train and equip both guides and agency directors to better manage risk, treat injuries, communicate effectively in emergency situations, and execute an efficient & organized rescue when needed. The plan includes:



A Wilderness First Responder (WFR) Course:

Offered to 20 local guides. The WFR is the industry standard for in-field first aid training and accident/emergency management. The 80-hour curriculum is both comprehensive and practical, covering injury evaluation & assessment, treatment, evacuation, wilderness first-aid protocols, and more. The company who will run the course in Huaraz is an Argentina based organization called Eco Med (<http://www.ecomed.org.ar>) with 11 years of quality training and instruction experience and internationally recognized WFR certifications.

Splinting practice, WFR Course Nov. 2009

A Risk Managers Course for local tour operators and expedition managers, covering the international standards of wilderness programming including: hiring criteria, expedition essentials (first aid kit standards, satellite phones, rescue and evacuation resources available), the writing of a risk management plan & policies for each company, and a common emergency response plan that can be followed by all local operators when a rescue call comes in. This course will be designed and implemented by Skyline Adventures (<http://www.skyline-adventures.com>) and Eco Med.



The purchase of 3 **Satellite Telephones** available for rental in Huaraz by expedition groups heading into remote mountain areas. While these are standard equipment for commercially guided groups in many areas of the World, they are non-existent in Huaraz and therefore have yet to be appreciated for their invaluable contribution to rescue efforts. The money generated from the rental of the phones will go back into the Anderson Foundation's account to be used for ongoing training and equipment purchase. 1 of the 3 phones will be kept available in the rescue headquarters at all times for use on emergency call-outs. The phones we are looking at buying are Iridium 9505A models and they will operate with pre-paid phone cards. [Phone information here!](#)

The purchase of at least 1 **Rescue Litter** (spine stabilizing carrying mechanism) to aid in safe and simplified transport of patients. There is currently only 1 litter available in Huaraz and it is often times difficult or impossible to access because it is kept locked up with only one person carrying the key. The litter(s) and the Sat phones will be kept in a central location with 24 hour access. There are several models of litters available and the type purchased will be dependent upon the amount of funding available. Our desired model can be found here: [Kong Lecco](#). If we do not receive funding to support the particular stretcher, we will research other options and purchase something different.



You can support the initiative by sending donations to:
The Anderson Foundation
c/o Kacy Murray
537 10th Avenue West
Kirkland , WA 98033

Thanks for the difference you will help us make and lots of love to all who knew and cherished the time they had with Tyler Anderson!