

COSTA RICA

By Justin Grubb & Alex Goetz



Justin Grubb

Growing up, my natural habitat was my backyard and I could always be found outside lifting up rocks for insects, searching the bushes for snakes and wading through water for frogs; armed with a field guide and a net, I was born to be a naturalist. As a kid, Jack Hanna was my role model and he was the inspiration for many of my own adventures, and ultimately, my interest in conservation education videos. Over the course of my education, I have had the opportunity to complete a project on the Techniques used in the Production of Conservation Education Videos and had the opportunity to interview Rick Prebeg, the production coordinator of “Jack Hanna’s Into the Wild” and stand on set while Jack Hanna filmed his intro for his show. At BGSU, where I currently study marine biology and outdoor education, I work with WBGU-TV producing and hosting short segments on conservation, sustainability, biology and outdoor science. In addition to my school experiences, I am an avid traveler and spent last summer working at El Parque Marino Del Pacifico in Costa Rica. This internship gave me a great experience working with researchers and animals in Costa Rica and a great understanding of the country. My passion is to share the world with people and to promote wildlife conservation so that these amazing animals remain on this planet for everybody to enjoy.

Alex Goetz

Throughout my life, I had always been interested in different types of animals and the outdoors, and although I didn’t pursue a career in biology or environmental science, I

realized that I could combine them with my passion for media. Coming to Bowling Green State University and participating in different student organizations on campus such as BG on TV introduced me to many like-minded individuals who shared the same ideas that I had when it came to nature, conservation and wilderness. I developed a group of friends that all worked together to form these messages and videos showing others what is out there, as well as what college students can discover.

This past summer, I was lucky enough to be offered a job as a media intern for Cape Hatteras National Seashore, in North Carolina. I spent the summer filming and producing anything I could that was related to the park grounds and its animals. Through this experience, I learned a lot about my field, as well as the direction that I could take my passion for videography and wildlife. My goal is to show people what is real, and the amazing things that exist around them. Things that people may never have heard of and things people have never seen before.

Proposal

The nature of this proposal is unique because the level of creativity involved and because it requires the collaboration efforts of two individual students. The role of Justin Grubb in the project is to produce and host the series. Producing involves making contacts within the country, budgeting and deciding where to go for the value of the project. Alex Goetz has the very important role of using his talents to film the series as it plays out in Costa Rica, as well as editing the project

The project being proposed for the *Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship* is a series of three, thirty minute conservation education videos all containing the biodiversity, geography, ecology, culture, outdoor science and biology of Costa Rica, in a

series called *Running Wild: Costa Rica*. The first segment will showcase the pelagic oceans and will include meeting up with Misión Tiburón to learn how to catch and tag bull sharks and hammerhead sharks. Also, scuba diving with manta rays and exploring how the ocean shaped Costa Rica will accompany the episode. The next video will specialize in the coral reefs and coasts of Costa Rica and why the country gets its name “Rich Coast.” Snorkeling in Manuel Antonio Park, kayaking among mangroves and exploring the beaches and how they are formed will be included in this episode. Also, a visit to El Parque Marino Del Pacifico, Costa Rica’s only marine animal rehabilitation center and community education center, will be included in the episode. The last episode will be about the mainland of Costa Rica and it includes meeting up with the Biard’s Tapir Project, Spider Monkey Rehabilitation, visits to tropical rainforests, cloud forests and to Volcan Arenal. Each episode will also include travel tips, advice, how to enjoy the outdoors sustainably, show us traveling in environmentally friendly ways and camping in areas that minimize the impact on the environment. In addition, we’ll include ways that viewers at home can help conservation efforts in Costa Rica and in their backyard. Also, we are being sponsored by an outdoor gear company named Deep South Mountaineering and they are providing backpacks, hammocks and other travel gear in support of our trip to Costa Rica. This gear is considered more environmentally friendly than what is currently on the market for camping and for traveling.

The purpose of the series is to show the many fascinating animals and ecosystems of Costa Rica and why they are the happiest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth. We also hope to inspire viewers to get outdoors to explore and to be adventurous.

The project has three phases and they include pre-production, production and post-production. Only the production portion of the project requires funding. Pre production has already begun with the initial contacts, planning, funding and episode writing. As of now, most of our contacts have been made for this project and many of the people we talked to are eager to help us out on our video shoot. These groups include, El Parque Marino Del Pacifico, Mision Tiburon, Researcher Rebeca Quirós in the Osa Peninsula and Hector of Santa Maria and Monteverde National Park. Production will start May 7th with the arrival to San Jose and end May 23rd with the return to the United



States. For the trip itself, we will fly into San Jose Costa Rica and stay in the country for 17 days to film our documentaries. We will concentrate our travels to the west coast of the country and visit Corcovado, Manuel Antonio, Puntarenas, Curu, Monteverde and La Fortuna. We will be camping at ranger

stations when available and staying in Backpacker Hostels in the cities while traveling throughout the country.

Post production includes editing the videos and creating a website to showcase the project and the videos. Special thanks will be given to the fellowship for funding the project. In addition, the videos will be given to PBS to be aired on television to make them free to everyone. We will receive no compensation for the videos by having them aired on public TV.

Through the *Givens Memorial Fellowship Program*, we would be able to travel to a place that is considered the most biologically intense region on Earth, all for the sole purpose of telling its story to the general public. The trip that we have personally planned is just another example of how we are taking our careers into our own hands, and showing future employers the extent of our creative abilities. This trip is not only a huge experience for the both of us, but will benefit us for the rest of our lives. We will owe gratitude to the *Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship* for propelling us into a life of exploration and adventure.

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Budget

Based on two people	
Tours (Scuba, Hand gliding, Snorkel)	\$400
Housing (Hostels, Camp Grounds)	\$484
Park Entrance Fee's	\$220
Transportation (Car Rental High End)	\$1,142
Food (Based on 30 dollars a day per person)	\$1,020
Airfare (800 - Estimated Maximum)	\$1,600
Equipment (Microphones, Lens rental)	\$734
Buffer (Gas (\$177 estimate), Emergencies)	\$400
Total	\$6,000

Some parks may give us free admission for the publicity so there will be extra funds left over. Most of the left over funds will be used for post-production in the promotion of the video project and the development of the projects website. If the left over funds seem excessive, a donation will be made to El Parque Marino Del Pacifico in support of their sea turtle rescue program. A more complete and detailed list of funds including prices per activity has been created and can be reviewed upon request.