

# City pupil makes select team that will explore Arctic

- *4 Jul 2011*
- *Pretoria News*
- *JUDITH MATSEEMBI*

PRETORIA schoolgirl Mikayla Bader, 17, will be joining young explorers from across the globe next month on an expedition to the Arctic Circle.

The Grade 11 pupil from St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls is one of the young explorers who has been selected to participate in the Pangaea Expedition to discover more about the isolated region and learn about the Inuit culture.

Mikayla will get to experience and explore the natural world, learn about its challenges, meet new people, find possible solutions to environmental challenges, and above all help change things for the better.

It was no easy task to make it into the expedition team.

Mikayla had to make it through a gruelling 10-day selection camp in Switzerland before she was chosen as one of the eight explorers.

At the camp, Mikayla learned how to rock climb and also took part in stand up paddle boating.

"I am glad that I wasn't the one who had to choose the young explorers who will be travelling with Mike Horn, founder of the expedition, as it must have been an extremely difficult decision to make.

"What I have found very interesting was how different people react when they are pushed to their limits and how they react to others who have reached theirs," said Mikayla of her time at the camp.

Horn, originally from Johannesburg, is acknowledged as one of the world's greatest explorers and extreme adventurers.

One of Horn's quotes, a favourite of Mikayla's, is: "It's a journey fuelled by passion for our environment and to make a difference".

"I am over the moon. It's like a dream come true," said the young adventurer who heard about the expedition through her aunt who sent her the link last year.

She will be leaving for Nunavut, Canada, in mid-August to participate in the three-week expedition with all expenses paid.

While on the expedition the young explorers will carry out an environment and a social project addressing the effects of global warming on the Arctic and the lives of the Inuit people who inhabit Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

Mikayla is nervous about having to sleep on portal edges but looking forward to sailing the Pangaea boat which Horn built himself.

Mikayla is happy to share her day to day experiences with everyone and she can be contacted at [www.mikehorn.com](http://www.mikehorn.com), where she will be doing daily updates, or on Facebook as Mikayla Bader.



**Mikayla Bader gets to grips with rock climbing during a selection camp in Switzerland where she earned herself a place on an expedition to the Arctic Circle in August**