

Ethan and I met 12 years ago on the ski slopes of Steamboat, Colorado; Ethan, a first-time bi-skier, me an adaptive ski instructor. What started out as a typical day on the slopes has turned into a relationship that over the past decade has taken us traveling all over the US and abroad.

In this session, I invite you to entertain the growth and adventure possibilities that travel allows. Through pictures and video, travel with us from the ski slope to the world beyond brain injury as we crash through the barriers that limit our dreams.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.



#### Ethan's story:

In 1979, Ethan Zukerman, a healthy, thriving 3 year old fell through the ice in the area around his New Jersey home, and was not recovered for the better part of an hour. He remained in a coma for months, kept alive with a respirator, feeding tube, and round the clock care. He had no brain activity and virtually no hope of recovery. At some point during this turbulent year, he miraculously and spontaneously came out of the coma. His doctors gave his family no hope for any type of quality of life deemed worthy of the cost. He was never expected to walk or talk or do anything of any consequence.

Needless to say, Ethan has shattered his doctors words of gloom. His accident left him with injuries to his brain that manifest in CP type symptoms...spastic gross motor skills and profound fine motor inadequacies, along with significant speech abnormalities, but his life has been, and continues to be, anything but worthless.

Ethan joins the 99.5 percent of us that won't make the US ski team this year. He does, however, happily join the remaining .5 percent of amateur athletes that enjoy the great outdoors, using our bodies in the exhilaration of exercise and activity, and most importantly, Ethan is an active participant in life. He has written a book about traveling in a wheelchair and hopes to get it published in the near future.

What I hope to show you today, in pictures and video, is a world that many people with brain injury (and their caretakers) have falsely conceded is beyond their reach, the obstacles too vast, the rewards too small.