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Cyclists plan to make world of difference

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It's not unusual for college graduates to finish school with thoughts of changing the world. Some do more with those thoughts than others.

For recent Denver University graduates Eric Kornacki and Joseph Teipel, their thoughts turned into actions with the 23rd annual Ride The Rockies.

When Kornacki decided he wanted to embark on a bicycle journey that would take him from Alaska to Argentina to help communities throughout North

and South America, he knew who he wanted to go with him.

Teipel took his time committing to the extensive project.

"Right away I knew I would do it, but I was scared to say yes," Teipel said. "It's a lot of work and a huge commitment, so I took my time but I knew I would do it."

With both fully committed to the project and the demanding task of raising awareness and finding solutions for economic and environmental issues, Kornacki and Teipel started their plans to make a difference last August.

"We set up a nonprofit, and we had no idea about how to do anything like it," Teipel said.

Starting with the Ride The Rockies 435-mile bicycle tour through Colorado, Kornacki and Teipel are preparing for a more than 18-month, 18,000 mile, self-supported bike ride on bamboo-framed bicycles they call The Revolution Campaign.

Kornacki and Teipel plan to ride from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, through 16 countries to one of the southernmost cities in the world, Ushuaia, Argentina, to raise awareness and money to help a broad range of communi-

ties facing difficult social, economical and environmental issues.

"We want it to be hands-on, so we will camp or stay in hostels and try to make time to stay where we need to stay," Teipel said.

When the ride is over, the information they gather will go toward building a database they said will connect people and resources.

On the Net: The Revolution Campaign, www.revolution-campaign.org.

