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Revised March 2015
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club - Mountaineering Section (PATC-MS)
ANNUAL EXPEDITION GRANT PROGRAM
SYNOPSIS: The #1 object of the Mountaineering Section is "to provide the opportunity for group enjoyment of mountaineering and related activities" (Constitution of the Mountaineering Section-Potomac Appalachian Trail Club). The PATC-MS will conduct an annual call for proposals for expeditions and then review, select, fully endorse, and resource (within the organization's available means as decided by its leadership and members) those proposals that best advance that objective.
GOALS: To promote individual climbing level, team cooperation, and enhance the status of the club within the greater climbing community.
EXPEDITION ELIGIBILITY:
1. An expedition must typically be outside of the PATC-MS regular area (regular   area generally includes trips to crags in the following states: KY, MD, NC, NY, TN, VA, WV).
2. The objectives must be defined to expand the participants mountaineering/climbing experience. "Leading 5.8 at Seneca where I only led 5.7 before" will not cut it. Nor will an ice climbing trip to the Adirondaks, NY where you stay in motels. Examples of the types of trips that might qualify are Katahdin, Eastern Sierras, Alaska, alpine excursions into the greater ranges of this continent, expeditions abroad, big wall, etc.
***This proposal IN NO WAY LIMITS PATC-MS endorsement of other (non-funded) trips/ expeditions throughout the year. Those trips/ expeditions will continue to be announced and promoted via the list serve and endorsed when posted to the club calendar.
MEMBER ELIGIBILITY:
-All participants must be members in good standing of the PATC-MS.
-Participants must have been a member of the PATC-MS for at least one (1) year prior to submission of the application.
-Participants should be suitably fit and technically able to support the expedition group. This may include attending training activities at the discretion of the expedition leader. The expedition leader will have the final say in all membership matters once an expedition is approved.

IN-TRIP REQUIREMENTS: All expeditions must be physically identified as PATC-MS trips to maximize the marketing and visibility of the PATC-MS. This can done by using banners, club flags, club t-shirts, etc.

POST-TRIP REQUIREMENTS:

-Expedition slide-show for presentation at a PATC-MS monthly meeting and/or other local climbing venues (club EXCOM will work to identify other possible presentation venues).

-Pictures that are suitable to be posted online on the PATC-MS social media websites (e.g. Facebook).

- An expedition report for publication.

FUNDING: This is not intended to fully fund expeditions; rather it is intended as seed money to be provided as an organizational incentive. The standard awarding shall be two annual individual expedition grants in the amount of $500 per expedition with a total budget for all grants not to exceed $1,000. The EXCOM will have the flexibility to award grants to more than two expeditions but no individual expedition grant may exceed the amount of $500. Any hardware purchased with grant funding become PATC-MS equipment upon purchase and will be returned for future use at the completion of the expedition.

WHO MAY SUBMIT? Any PATC-MS member in good standing of the PATC-MS and who has been a member for at least one (1) year prior to submission.

TO WHOM ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED? To the Club Secretary of the PATC-MS at any time during the month of September each year. The application period closes at midnight on 30 September. The Club Secretary will forward all applications to the Expedition Grant Coordinator (to be chosen by the EXCOM no later than 01 September).

WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED? Applications will be accepted between 01 - 30 SEPTEMBER each year for expeditions proposed for the following FEB thru JAN.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT FOR PROPOSALS? Complete the Expedition Grant application form. Creativity is encouraged in the "Plan and Objectives" section and where applicants can provide as much detail as possible.

The presentation should be a powerpoint or other multi-media presentation and last no longer than 10 minutes.

Each application will contain the following information:

- Expedition Name
- Expedition Dates
- Expedition Objective(s)
- Member names and qualifications for the proposed expedition
- A description of how the expedition advances the Mountaineering Section's objectives (ie. What's in it for us?)

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SELECTED? In two phases.

FIRST, the Expedition Coordinator will consolidate an overall prioritization for the applications. The Expedition Coordinator will work with the EXCOM to and present those to the Membership no later than the 2nd Wednesday of JAN (Annual Meeting).

FINALLY, the EXCOM will decide which of the prioritized applications best meet the club's objectives. In the event an EXCOM member is on a grant application, the member will recuse him/herself from the decision-making process; a replacement from the list of Honorary Members shall be named.

In the unlikely event that the process proves particularly inept or ineffective the EXCOM may grant or deny any proposal at its sole discretion.

A suggested evaluation criteria is as follows:

Best advances PATC-MS objectives

Best potential for success

Affordability

RESPONSIBILITIES:

TRIP LEADERS:

- Be members in good standing (dues paid and waiver signed) of the PATC-MS for at least one (1) year prior to application.
- Complete and submit the Expedition Grant Application form (1-30 SEP) and give a brief presentation on the proposed expedition in person at a monthly meeting (OCT-DEC).

IF SELECTED:

- Responsible for the overall leadership and coordination of the expedition.
- Assign/coordinate team member responsibilities as required.
- Manage the expedition budget.
- Maintain accountability of all PATC-MS equipment.
- Be suitably fit and technically able to support the expedition group.
- Be honest about your individual capabilities and limitations and SHARE those with the other expedition participants.
- Be flexible and cooperative about your personal goals for the expedition. Weather, other objective factors, and/or various group dynamics may prohibit any specific objective you start with. No expedition should ever be a complete waste if you can do this. At a minimum you are guaranteed to learn your way around a new area and meet some new people.
- Climb and enjoy the expedition.
- Coordinate and ensure an expedition report and slide-show within six (6) months of the completion of the expedition.
- Post the expedition details on the club calendar

EXPEDITION PARTICIPANTS:

- Be members in good standing (dues paid and waiver signed) of the PATC-MS for at least one (1) year prior to application.
- Be suitably fit and technically able to support the expedition group.
- Execute duties as assigned by the expedition leader.
- Be honest about your individual capabilities and limitations and SHARE those with the other expedition participants.
- Be flexible and cooperative about your personal goals for the expedition. Weather, other objective factors, and/or various group dynamics may prohibit any specific objective you start with. No expedition should ever be a complete waste if you can do this. At a minimum you are guaranteed to learn your way around a new area and meet some new people.

- Climb and enjoy the expedition.
- Contribute to the post-expedition slide show and expedition report.

EXPEDITIONS COORDINATOR:
- Coordinate proposals presentations with the EXCOM and IT Coordinator
- Make an overall prioritization recommendation to the EXCOM NLT the 1st Tuesday of JAN.
- Assist expedition leader as necessary and requested.

IT COORDINATOR:
- Post approved Annual Expedition Grant Guidelines to the club website.
- Include monthly presentations (OCT-DEC) to meeting agendas.
- Assist expedition leaders to post approved Expeditions to the club calendar.
- Coordinate and schedule post-expedition slide shows.

SOCIAL MEDIA/UPROPE EDITOR:
- Receive, edit, and publish the expedition report in Up Rope.
- Coordinate copyright release, appropriate bylines and credits, and submit expedition reports to other publications as appropriate.