

Calvin Outdoor Recreation Spring Break Adventure Grants Guidelines

Overview

Adventure Grants (AG) are intended to provide financial assistance to members of the Calvin College student body engaging in outdoor exploration, adventure and recreation of a creative and exciting nature. All trips will need to embrace the following model (as defined and described as follows):

Trips involving six to twelve individuals working cooperatively for common goals, sharing expenses, decision making, and responsibilities as equitably as possible. The success or failure of these trips rests in the hands of the group and not the person who initiated the idea, the Calvin College, HPERDS Dept., Calvin Adventure Clubs, and/or the Student Development Dept. of Calvin College. Group members accept full responsibility for the trip and for each other. The type of trip selected involves physical activity such as hiking, paddling, skiing, or climbing, and not passive motorized activities. Groups are structured horizontally so that all members share in decision making. Decisions are made by consensus in a democratic manner. Top-down leadership is generally avoided unless, perhaps in an emergency, it is necessary for the concern and well-being of the group. All members of the group pitch in and help, and because of empathy for one another, responsibilities are spread out among the group as equitably as possible. With an emphasis on openness and personal responsibility, all members of the group contribute to the process of making the trip safe, watching out for each other's welfare. The trip is structured so that no entities or individuals benefit monetarily. Since all AG funding is drawn from the student activities fee paid by all students, financial equity is ensured. No AG funds go to the adventure club program, HPERDS, or Student Development. Learning which occurs on the trip is experiential: learning by doing. When appropriate, knowledgeable members share their knowledge and skills with those less skilled, but there is no formalized instruction. Finally, the care of the natural environment is embraced and all members of the group would work to minimize their impact on the environment.

By accepting an AG offer of funding, all trip participants are agreeing to abide by the principles outlined above, and to the following criteria and values:

- 6-12 group members
- "Wilderness Based" experience consisting of at least five days of primitive travel; backpacking, boating, climbing, and/or skiing/snowboarding
- Leave No Trace ethics.
- Substance free trips (Alcohol and Drug Free)
- Respect and care for the natural environment
- Creation of trip plan
- Creation of an emergency action plan/emergency contacts

Structure

The Adventure Grant program is overseen by the HPERDS Department and Student Development Department of Calvin College.

Application procedure:

Application and trip plan review will occur on a rolling basis from the beginning of fall semester through the second week of February. Funding has been designated on a per person basis. Currently (2008), \$50-\$75 will be awarded per person (up to 60 participants). For example, by current estimations, this will offset the total per person cost of a nine day trip to the Utah Canyonlands by an average of 30% . Adventure Grants to individual trips will range between \$300 and \$900.

Applicants will come with a completed AG application and trip plan (available to all via email upon request from rmw3@calvin.edu) and briefly present their proposal. This meeting allows us to ask questions and offer advice regarding the proposal, and to answer questions from applicants about the Adventure Model upon which AG trips are based. HPERDS/Student Development reserves the right to deny with no further explanation any application submitted less than 2 weeks prior to the start date of the proposed trip.

Approval notification

Prospective applicants will be informed via email of the status of their application no more than 48 hours after presenting their proposal. Approval emails will contain the following:

- A detailed explanation of the reimbursement policies and procedures.
- A detailed explanation of the trip check-out and check-in policies and procedures (rental gear).

Denied applications

The AGC may deny trips for any of the following reasons:

- Lack of funding
- Lack of applicants' agreement to adhere to the principles of the adventure model and criteria outlined above.

Reciprocity

Calvin College asks little in return for Adventure Grants. We merely request of participants that photos be brought back from the trip and given to the HPERDS Department to use as it sees fit to publicize student led expeditions and the Adventure Grant program.

Funding specifics

Funding is dispensed in the form of reimbursements after the completion of the trip based on the agreed upon total. Groups are expected to supply receipts (of any arrangement) totaling agreed upon amounts following the trip. Under no circumstances will expenses be reimbursed without a receipt. The following are a list of anticipated expenses for any wilderness trip that can be reimbursed under the Adventure Grant program:

- Food: \$2-\$3 per person per meal (groceries)
- Gas: \$3-\$4 per gallon up to a total determined in advance based on the anticipated travel mileage involved in the trip proposal
- Permitting and Camping Fees
- Instructional Costs (certifications, training, seminars)
- Calvin College rental equipment

The Adventure Grant Program will not reimburse for equipment purchases, guiding fees, or any other expenses that it determines at its sole discretion to be inappropriate.