# Climbing Education Grant Proposal

* The Seattle Climbing Committee shall create a Climbing Education Grant.
* The Seattle Climbing Committee shall allocate a budget for the Climbing Education Grant. This budget shall be determined at the beginning of each fiscal year and needs to be approved by the Seattle Climbing Committee every year.
* The Seattle Climbing Committee authorizes the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee to give out Climbing Education Grants based on the below outlined guidelines.
* The Climbing Education Grant subcommittee shall follow the below outlined guidelines in awarding grants. The subcommittee shall document the criteria and the process.
* The guidelines for awarding grants shall be publicly available to members of the Mountaineers climbing community.

# Climbing Education Grant Objectives

The Climbing Education Grant shall achieve the following objectives:

1. Provide recognition of course leaders and climbing instructors who have given a lot of time and energy to the Mountaineers climbing program.
2. Provide an incentive to volunteer for the Seattle Climbing program in order to be eligible to receive a Climbing Education Grant.
3. Keep the Mountaineers up-to-date on techniques professional climbers use and teach.
4. Elevate Mountaineers standing in the climbing education community by providing professionally educated instructors.

# Climbing Education Grant Guidelines

The Climbing Education Grant subcommittee shall follow the below guidelines in awarding grants and they shall document how the guidelines are applied. The guidelines shall be publicly accessible to the Mountaineers climbing community.

## Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must be longstanding Mountaineers members and they must be current on their membership dues. In addition, the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee considers the following qualifications in the order listed:

1. Climbing Course Leaders (e.g. Basic, Crag, Alpine Rock, Water Ice etc.)
2. Climb Leaders and Crag Leaders with a considerable number of volunteer instructor hours or a large number of Mountaineers climbs within the recent past.
3. Applicants who met the applicant qualifications in the past but who had been waitlisted due to insufficient funds.
4. Course graduates of one of the Mountaineers’ climbing courses (intermediate, crag and above) with a considerable number of volunteer instructor hours within the recent past.
5. Advanced students of one of the Mountaineers’ climbing courses (intermediate, crag and above) with a considerable number of volunteer instructor hours within the recent past.

## Selecting Applicants

The Climbing Education Grant subcommittee ranks all applicants according to the above outlined applicant qualifications. Grants are awarded to top ranking applicants until funds run out for the respective fiscal year. The Climbing Education Grant subcommittee may decide to award partial grants if there are more applicants than funds available.

In addition to the above outlined applicant qualifications, the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee applies the following criteria when ranking the applicants:

* Applicants with a greater number of volunteer instructor hours in the Seattle climbing program are preferred over applicants with a smaller number or over those who are active in other branches.
* Applicants who are applying for an exam are preferred over applicants applying for a course.
* Applicants who have not received a grant in the past are given higher priority over applicants who have received a grant in the past (does not apply for exams).
* Applicants who received a grant in the past and did not meet the below outlined expectations are generally not eligible to receive additional grants.
* In case there are two or more applicants with equal or very similar qualifications and without sufficient funds to cover all of them, the selection is random (lottery). The loosing applicant(s) is waitlisted until the end of the fiscal year. If funds become available during the respective fiscal year, a partial or full grant is awarded. Otherwise the applicants needs to apply again the next fiscal year and they are vetted again against the above outlined criteria (see Applicant Qualifications).
* Members of the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee are not eligible for grants.

## Eligible Programs

The following programs are eligible for reimbursement through the Climbing Education Grant:

* Any AMGA program and exam (e.g. AMGA SPI course & exam, Rock Guide Exam, Alpine Skills Course) excluding Ski Guide Certifications.
* Regional (PNW) climbing courses by AMGA certified guide services that support our climbing program (e.g. [Water Ice - Intermediate/Advanced Waterfall Ice](http://www.alpineinstitute.com/catalog/ice-climbing-intermediateadvanced-waterfall-ice/) by the American Alpine Institute). Eligibility for non-AMGA courses is determined on a case by case basis by the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee.

## Application

In order to be considered for a Climbing Education Grant, applicants must submit the following:

* Climbing resume including formal climbing education
* [Climbing Education Grant Application](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1925867/Climbing-Education-Grant-Application)

## Timeline

The Mountaineers fiscal year starts October 1st. Applications can be turned in any time after October 1st and throughout the year. However, grants cannot be awarded until the annual budget for the Climbing Education Grant has been determined by the Seattle Climbing Committee. Once the annual budget has been established the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee will review applications and award grants in accordance with these guidelines.

* The Climbing Education Grant subcommittee notifies applicants within 30 days after receiving an application or after a budget is established (whichever comes later) whether a grant can be awarded or not, and what the amount of the grant is if any.
* Once the annual budget has been used up, no more applications are accepted and no more grants are awarded for the respective fiscal year. Applicants who have been waitlisted or who have been denied a grant due to lack of funds need to apply again the following fiscal year.

## Grant Restrictions

The following restrictions apply:

* Nobody is entitled to receive a grant of any amount.
* Grants can be awarded in full or in part for the cost of a course or an exam based on available funds and the subcommittee’s recommendation.
* Grants are conditional on the outcome of other scholarships if applicable. If an applicant was awarded a grant and he/she also receives a scholarship independent of the Mountaineers, the grant is valid only for the remainder of the course fee if any. If the scholarship pays for the entire course fee, the grant is void.
* Individual grants cannot exceed 20% of the annual Climbing Education Grant budget regardless of course or exam fees. If the course or exam fee is greater than 20% of the annual budget the applicant is responsible for the remainder.
* If a candidate does not get into the program for which they were awarded a grant, the grant is void and the applicant needs to apply again the following year.

## Applicant Responsibilities

The award of a Climbing Education Grant is only the first step. Applicants need to take the following steps in order to actually receive the grant:

* Applicants need to secure a spot for themselves in the program for which the grant was awarded. This includes applying for the program with the program provider and meeting their application deadlines. If an applicant is unable to secure a spot for whatever reason, the grant becomes void.
* The applicant is responsible for paying course or exam fees in advance directly to the program provider (see below).

## Receiving Grants

Grants are issued as reimbursement after the applicant paid the course or exam fees in advance.

* Applicants need to submit a check request form along with a receipt from the program provider and the confirmation of the Climbing Education Grant to the respective Seattle Climbing Chair.
* Applicants should aim to submit their check request form within 30 days after paying the course or exam fees, but no later than September 15 of the fiscal year for which the grant was awarded. Check request forms received after September 15 of the current fiscal year may be denied.
* Courses that consist of an exam are reimbursed after the applicant passed the exam. The applicant may be asked to provide proof of passing the exam.
* In cases when paying course fees in advance causes a hardship the applicant can appeal to the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee for other arrangements on an exceptional basis.

## Expectations

Successful applicants are expected to “give back” to The Mountaineers by volunteering as course leader, climbing instructor and by disseminating what they learned. The specific ways in which an applicant is expected to give back is documented in a signed agreement between the Climbing Education Grant subcommittee and the applicant. The amount of volunteer work expected of a successful applicant is dependent on the amount awarded. Volunteer work could include:

* Serving as climbing course leader or as climbing instructor
* Summarizing learnings in writing to the climbing committee who will re-distribute to relevant subcommittees, course leaders and to the safety committee
* Holding an evening seminar on
  + what they learned in the course
  + what programs and courses are eligible
  + how to apply for grants
* Mentoring others who want to apply for a Climbing Education Grant