

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT



INFORMATION SHEET

The Mount Everest Foundation is a registered charity, set up following the first ascent of Everest in 1953, and initially financed from the surplus funds and subsequent royalties resulting from that expedition.

The aims of the Foundation are to encourage and support expeditions exploring mountain regions, and both education and research pertaining to a wide range of subjects in mountain areas, including geography, glaciology and the effects of altitude. Affairs are controlled by a Committee of Management, of which half is appointed by the Alpine Club and half by the Royal Geographical Society.

Expeditions planning geographical exploration, first ascents of, or major new routes on high or remote mountains are likely to qualify. Applications from expeditions proposing to visit little-explored or formerly inaccessible areas are particularly encouraged, as are those pursuing worthwhile research. Normally, the MEF will only support expeditions where the majority of members come from Great Britain or New Zealand.

Since its inception, over £1,500,000 has been dispensed in grants. All administration work is carried out by volunteer officers, thus keeping expenses to a minimum and allowing a very high proportion of income to be distributed as grants. Many major expeditions have been supported, including first ascents of some of the highest mountains on earth. The majority of grants are now given to small expeditions organised by adventurous climbers planning first ascents or new routes in the Greater Ranges outside central Europe, but in other mountain regions research activities have also been funded. Particular attention is given to the exploratory or innovative nature of each expedition.

An expedition wishing to apply for MEF support must complete an 'Application for Grant' form, giving details of the intended objective and participants. The form can be downloaded from the MEF website. Expeditions applying for MEF support will also be considered for the Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant to deserving female climbers (or expeditions), the Roger Chorley Memorial Grant to university mountaineering expeditions, and the Nick Estcourt Award.

The knowledge acquired during an expedition must be made publicly available. In return for support or approval, the MEF requires a Summary Report (forms available on MEF website) to be submitted within four weeks of returning home, and a Final Report as soon as possible thereafter. Reports should be sent as e-mail attachments to the MEF Hon Secretary. Failure to provide a Final Report may lead to expedition members being refused support.

The Screening Committee meets to consider applications twice a year - in November and March. Completed application forms must be submitted to the Secretary by the 31st January for expeditions taking place after mid-April of that current year, and the 30th September for those expeditions taking place after mid-November the same year and before the end of the following year. These dates are strictly observed, and no application can be considered unless it is received by the closing dates.

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