



van der Smissen RESEARCH ENDOWMENT

Purpose:

Provide small grants for research in outdoor programming

Eligibility:

- Individuals (students, educators, practitioners), agencies, and organizations
- Research focused on outdoor programming, in areas of adventure/challenge experiential programs, organized camping, environmental education, and legal aspects related to outdoor programming
- Research related to outdoor *programming* and **not** outdoor recreation.

Selection Criteria:

- Preference will be given to studies that are projected to be completed within 12 months
- Studies must be related to outdoor programming, with preference given to adventure/challenge programs.
- Focus – benefits or outcomes, attitudes, interests, good practices, experimental design of exemplary programs, et al
- Selection to be based on appropriateness to purpose of endowment, completeness and quality of proposal, and feasibility.

Proposal Application Procedures:

- Application deadline – February 15 each year
- Proposal not to exceed 5 pp., 12 pt type
- Submit via internet to national AEE office
- Research proposal should include
 - title, statement of the problem, purpose, significance
 - methodology – population/sampling, program/activity, description (if appropriate), instrumentation, data collection, data analysis
 - timeline
 - budget
 - investigator(s) and qualifications to conduct study
 - submitting organization/person and contact information

Selection Committee:

Chair of AEE Research and Evaluation Committee selects 3 or 4 persons with a strong research background related to outdoor programming, including at least one person with research background in organized camping; suggest 3-year rotating terms.



The Selection Committee determines the number and amount of grants given annually, based upon the funds available and applications (number and quality).

FINANCIAL BASE

An endowment shall be established and administered by the AEE. The AEE shall select a financial institution to manage the endowment investments.

Financial Institution Responsibilities:

- Accept endowment contributions
- Invest endowment funds in moderate stocks or mutual funds
- Provide semi-annual reports to the AEE Board, identifying the amount of principal and the amount of interest available for disbursement
- Provide annual check to AEE for dispersal to grantees

Dispersal of Funds:

- Grants shall be made from interest only.
- The amount allocated for grants each year will be determined by interest available.
- Individual grants may range from \$100 to \$500 each, to be adjusted as the endowment (interest) grows.
- If a grant is not made in a given year, or if all of the interest available is not allocated, these funds will revert to the principal.

Dissolution:

In the event that AEE cannot or decides not to administer the endowment, the balance of the endowment shall be transferred to the American Camp Association for use in support of research.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANTS

AEE Responsibilities:

Promotion --

- Annual solicitation of proposals, e.g., announcements in publications and on website, place to indicate contribution to endowment on membership form and annual conference registration form
- Recipient(s) of grant(s) will be announced at AEE national convention (included in program with other awardees), in AEE publications, and on the AEE website
- Provide program time for recipients to present findings at national AEE conference, and provide conference fee remission for presenters. The presentation in the program should be designated as a "grant recipient".
- Maintain a cumulative list of grant recipients with dates and titles (subjects/ topics) on AEE website.



Administration –

- Annually the AEE Research and Evaluation Committee will review application procedures and, when appropriate, will make recommendations for changes to the AEE Board.
- Based on the mid-year (July) report from the financial institution, the AEE Board sends information to the Research and Evaluation Committee and the Selection Committee regarding the amount of money available for dispersal for the upcoming year
- Send a thank you letter to donors to the endowment, together with an IRS tax deductible statement.
- Set the timeline –
 - July & January Financial institution mid-year reports on status of funds
 - February 15 Proposals application deadline
 - March Selection Committee reviews applications & selects proposals for grants
 - April Grants dispersed
 - AEE Fall Conference Grants announced at conference, and completed projects presented

Responsibilities of recipients:

Upon completion of study, recipients will –

- Present the results at the national AEE conference, or other approved/appropriate national conference
- Submit two articles for publication – one for an appropriate professional periodical and the other for a referred research publication.