

THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB/MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR MCNEILL-NOTT AWARD

With the untimely death of Sue Nott and her partner Karen McNeill on Mt. Foraker in 2006, the AAC and Mountain Hardwear decided to establish this grant in their memory. Sue Nott was a long-time member of the AAC. Sue and Karen were Mountain Hardwear athletes and close personal friends who frequently climbed together.

The McNeill-Nott Award seeks to preserve the memory and spirit of these two talented and courageous climbers by giving grants to amateur climbers exploring new routes or unclimbed peaks with small and lightweight teams. Special attention will be given to projects that have strong exploratory and adventuresome mountaineering components, and these components will be weighted more heavily than technical difficulty.

Two or three grants totaling nearly \$7,000 are awarded annually to the teams that best meet the criteria for the amateur and exploratory scope of the grant.

Projects involving climbers who are supported financially by corporate sponsors will not be considered. Proposals from “amateur” climbers that have received financial corporate support for the proposed trip will be considered, but support level should be disclosed.

The application deadline is January 1st. Grant applications must be made electronically in MS Word or PDF format by the due date. A valid scanned signature and initials must be inserted into the document in the appropriate sections or a hard copy may be mailed in. No late applications accepted. Applications are for climbs departing May 1st through April 30th of the following year.

Selection Criteria:

A committee of three active climbers reviews the applications, selects the recipients, and decides the amount each recipient receives. The three judges’ combined climbing experience ranges from extreme free climbing to remote big walls to alpine-style ascents in the Himalayas.

- **AAC membership is required**
- The grant applicant must be a U.S. citizen, though team members may be foreign citizens.
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age and complete legal liability releases.
- All expeditions must be legal and obtain all necessary visas and permits required by local authorities.
- All expeditions must be conducted in an environmentally conscious and sound approach, and with care and respect for local inhabitants.

- The judges consider the proposed climbing objectives' compelling nature, remoteness, exploratory nature, and the overall significance. Acceptable objectives could range from a exploring hidden Alaskan gems to a new route in the Himalaya (see past recipients for examples).
- The team's planned climbing style is considered. Teams climbing with the highest ethical standards and small, lightweight teams using a minimum of fixed ropes, camps, personnel, and equipment are strongly favored. Commercial, professional, and principally cause-related expeditions are ineligible.
- The judges consider the team's overall experience level, which must match the proposed objective.

Responsibilities of grant recipient:

- If for any reason the expedition is canceled or significantly changed, awarded funds must be returned to the AAC in full. Please contact the AAC office if your proposal changes.
- If, after a grant is awarded, additional funding is obtained and the grant funds are no longer needed, or if an expedition is "over funded," the recipient is asked to return all surplus funds to the AAC. Also, if after the grant is awarded a corporate sponsorship is awarded to the expedition, all funds from the AAC must be returned.
- Within **two months** of returning, all grant recipients must submit to the AAC a written expedition report (including photos) for possible inclusion in AAC publications and/or posting on the AAC website. (Failure to submit expedition report will result in applicant being ineligible for future AAC grants)
- Any photos of the expedition team or individuals submitted with an expedition report may be reproduced in any manner the AAC desires for use on the AAC website or marketing materials. The AAC will have the right to use photos submitted with an expedition report on the AAC website or marketing materials.
- Grant recipients agree to act as American Alpine Club Ambassadors. The role of an Ambassador means you mention your AAC support at slide shows and events when speaking about the expedition; you may be asked to give a presentation on the expedition at the AAC's annual meeting or other events; and you express a commitment to the AAC's mission.

MCNEILL-NOTT GRANT APPLICATION

Submit application to:

Grants Manager

Attn: **McNeill-Nott Award**

Email: grants@americanalpineclub.org

Phone: 303-384-0110 ext. 15

In order to process your application as quickly as possible:

- **You must submit your application electronically in MS Word or PDF format.** You must include a scanned signature inserted into the document where needed.
- Please submit a photo of your proposed route (with route drawn in if possible).
- Submit to the AAC on or before the **January 1st** deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Name: _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Primary Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

___ Yes, I am a member of The American Alpine Club. (**membership is required**)

___ Yes, I am a U.S. Citizen. (applicant must be a U.S. citizen but team members need not be)

Climbing objective (include an 8 x 10 photo with the proposed route(s) drawn in; photos will not be returned):

Summarize the significance of your proposed climb by explaining the character of the route, its history, the style it will be climbed in, the approach required, and your previous experience (if any) on the route or in the area you intend to climb in:

Name of team members (please attach bios and photos if available):

Describe team's experience:

Budget (please break into broad categories, i.e., airfare, ground transportation, porter, food, etc.):

Itinerary (a general schedule of what you plan to do and when):

Please list any additional grants or sponsorships you are applying for and the amount(s) received:

By my signature, I agree that:

- All of the information presented in this application is accurate and true.
- Any awarded funds will be used for the purposes stated and that any changes in plans will be reported to the AAC.
- If for any reason the climbing objective is canceled or significantly changed, awarded funds must be returned to the AAC.
- I will be responsible for any taxes that may apply to the award received.
- Neither I, nor any member of my team, have been convicted of any crime or been excluded, banned or disciplined from climbing in any area.
- In any presentation, lecture, slide show or articles about my trip, I will mention that I received an AAC grant and include an AAC logo in my presentation.
- I will submit an expedition report, with photos, **within two months**, of my return and I agree that this report may be published in any AAC publication as well as the AAC website. (Failure to submit expedition report will result in applicant being ineligible for future AAC grants.)
- Any photos of the expedition team or individuals submitted with an expedition report may be reproduced in any manner the AAC desires for use on the AAC website or marketing materials. The AAC will have the right to use photos submitted with an expedition report on the AAC website or marketing materials.
- I will be willing, if asked, to give a presentation of the expedition at the AAC annual meeting or other event.
- Grant recipients agree to be an American Alpine Club Ambassador. The role of an Ambassador means that you will endorse the AAC at slide shows and events, and will have an expressed commitment to the AAC's mission.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PRINT NAME: _____

We must have your signature. If you can't provide an electronic signature, please mail a backup signed copy to the AAC offices at: 710 10th Street, Golden, CO 80401 Attn: Grants Manager.

Before grant funds can be distributed to recipients, a signed and initialed "Agreement" between grant recipient and the AAC must be received along with recipient's social security number (for tax purposes). This form will be sent to winning grant recipients with notification that they have been awarded a grant. An electronic signature or mailed in signature on this form will be required.