

SRGC Exploration Fund – Award Criteria

When considering whether to make an award, the Exploration Fund Committee will take the following criteria into account. Because of the great variety of applications, it is not possible to indicate a relative weighting for each criterion. If an applicant considers that the Committee should depart from any of these criteria, it is up to the applicant to provide cogent reasons in the application for the Committee to do so.

The project

- Overall, does the project fit the Fund's purpose?
- Is the project well defined and, in the opinion of the Committee, worthwhile in terms of the scientific, horticultural and personal educational aims proposed? Note that the Committee will not provide funds for holidays, however educational.
- Does the project seem well planned with objectives achievable in the time proposed?
- Do the applicant's personal aims fit well to the project?
- If the applicant is young, inexperienced and part of a group, then is the leader of the group of sufficient calibre, reputation and/or experience to enable overall success? Has collaboration or assistance in the country of destination been sought and obtained?

Money

- Is the project budget reasonably well constructed and the costs justified for what is proposed?
- Where applicants are members of groups, the other members of which have also applied for support from the Fund, and where there are some variations in individual costs – are these justified?
- Does the budget include unsupported items? Normally the Committee will not fund equipment that will last for more than the duration of the trip, including, for example, clothing, boots, camping equipment, GPS/altimeter, guide books, camera equipment and herbarium presses. Any such costs should not be included in an application.
- If a sum for contingencies is included in the budget, how big is this relative to the total cost? Note that if the Committee funds a sum for contingencies, it expects the unspent portion to be refunded to the SRGC after completion of the expedition.
- Is a good mix of funding sought, particularly where the overall cost is high?
- Is the proportion requested from SRGC acceptable?
- Is there a reasonable personal contribution by the applicant? Normally the Committee expects applicants to meet at least 20% of the cost of expeditions themselves.

The application

- Is all the information requested included in the application?
- Are there any unanswered questions?
- How well is the application written and set out – has sufficient care and thought been put into this?

Benefit to the Club's charitable aims

- What is the benefit to the SRGC's charitable aims: knowledge transfer to members of the SRGC, and to the interested public at large, is expected in terms of a report, lectures or articles in *The Rock Garden* or on the SRGC Forum.
- Does the expedition pose any risks to the SRGC's reputation or charitable status?

Miscellaneous

- Have any necessary permits been obtained (where, for example, collecting is included)?

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