

**MASTERING MOUNTAINS GRANT (for NZ based challenges)**

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**

*Open September – October Annually*

**Purpose**

- 1.1 To assist people who have been diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis to overcome a specific obstacle so that they can achieve a specific outdoor pursuit.
- 1.2 Successful applicants will be eligible for a financial contribution payable for their activity fees with the amount awarded at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

**Conditions**

- 2.1 Applications are open to people with MS who are New Zealand residents.
  - 2.1.1 Applications will be accepted for consideration from persons who have MS who are not members of a regional MS Society provided that the application is authenticated by the person's GP or primary health professional.
  - 2.1.2 Members of the Selection Panel and their immediate family are not eligible to apply.
- 2.2 Applicants are required to explain in a statement on the application form the reasons why they chose the selected activity and how the experience will benefit them. Applicants must also identify the obstacle the grant will help them overcome to complete the activity and must outline the steps they are taking and will take to prepare for the activity.
- 2.3 Applicants are required to provide a breakdown of costs relating to their chosen activity indicating what they are specifically requesting funding towards from the Mastering Mountains Grant
- 2.4 The Selection Panel that considers applications submitted must comprise one from each of the following groups: Trustee of Mastering Mountains Trust; Person with MS; MSNZ National Office and a MSNZ National Executive Committee Member.
- 2.5 The financial contribution awarded will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel and advised at the time of confirmation. The amount contributed will be awarded based on available funds for the year and may not cover the total amount applied for. More than one applicant may receive funding in a year.
- 2.6 Successful applicants are requested to support future recipients of the Mastering Mountains Trust by fundraising. A minimum of 50% of any funds raised, beyond the costs of their activity, must be donated to Mastering Mountains.

## **Process**

- 3.1 Applications must be on the official application form provided.
- 3.2 There are two funding rounds open annually. NO late applications will be accepted and must be resubmitted for the next funding round.

**Funding Round 1:** Mastering Mountains Expedition Grant (for overseas challenges) - Applications will open 1<sup>st</sup> April and close on the 31<sup>st</sup> May annually.

**Funding Round 2:** Mastering Mountains Grant (for NZ based challenges) - Applications will open 1<sup>st</sup> September and close on the 31<sup>st</sup> October annually.

- 3.3 Applicants must complete all parts of the application form and submit it along with any supporting material. No additional supporting material can be received at any later date.
- 3.4 MSNZ will acknowledge receipt of the application within 10 working days of its receipt.
- 3.5 The Selection Panel shall meet during November and June and applicants will be notified by email by 1<sup>st</sup> December or 1<sup>st</sup> July annually, depending on the funding round applying for.
- 3.6 Funding will only be available to individuals once. Successful applicants will not be able to reapply for a later funding round. Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to reapply.
- 3.6 The successful applicants must complete their chosen activity within 12 months of their application. Failure to do so may result in funding being withdrawn. Any change to, deferral of, or withdrawal from an activity, must first be discussed with MSNZ. If a change is requested funding for a new activity is not guaranteed.
- 3.7 Payments will be made directly to the activity provider on receipt of the appropriate tax invoice. Any refund of fees due in the event of a withdrawal or deferral shall be repaid by the activity provider or applicant to MSNZ.
- 3.9 The successful applicants will be required to provide information about themselves and a photograph to MSNZ for publicity in either local or national media.