

Guideline for Applicants Seeking Assistance from the MCSA for Expeditions

FOR THIS PURPOSE:
E: expeditions@mcsa.org.za

mcsa.org.za

Dear Applicant

This guideline for applicants seeking assistance from the MCSA for expeditions must be read in conjunction with the **"Application Form for Applicants seeking Assistance from the MCSA for Expeditions"** form EXP2A, as well as the **"Feedback from Expeditions Assisted by the MCSA"** form EXP3A. All these forms may be obtained in electronic form from the MCSA's web-site.

1. All applications should be received at least two months prior to the departure date of the expedition. Applications submitted at shorter will still be considered on an ad hoc basis. Applications will be considered by the MCSA's National Expeditions Subcommittee and a response given to the applicant by the MCSA's National Committee by not later than four weeks after the date of receipt of the application.
2. MCSA support for an expedition will only be considered in principle if the information filled in in the application form confirms that the expedition complies with the following:
 - a. The objectives of the expedition fall within one of the following categories:
 - i. The expedition's objective is to climb in and/or explore a remote mountain area
 - ii. The expedition's objective is to attempt a new and significant route where the preparations and logistics involved have the character of an expedition
 - iii. The event has been organised by a section of the MCSA or by the MCSA's National Committee (Cencom) with the intention to introduce new members to expeditions.
 - iv. The event will impart expedition knowledge, skills and experience to the participant(s) that they could not otherwise acquire within South Africa.
 - v. The event will be a personal achievement and the nature and complexity of this event is of significant ambition to warrant support.
 - vi. Taking account of the expedition's stated objective and the experience of the expedition members, the expedition must have a fair chance of success.
3. The expedition may include team members who are not MCSA members, but only MCSA members will be eligible for MCSA support. MCSA members of the expedition must be in good standing.
4. Application forms must be fully completed and signed by the applicant as well as by the Chairperson of the MCSA section endorsing the application. Forms must be sent to expeditions@mcsa.org.za.

5. Please take note of the following requirements when completing the application form:
 - i. If there is any additional information, which may help the MCSA to reach a decision, add it in the space provided in item 13. of the application form or submit it as separate documentation (eg photographs showing the expedition's proposed objective)
 - ii. All information supplied must be true and as accurate as possible. Any gross misrepresentation will result in the MCSA rejecting the application
 - iii. In "relevant experience" (item. 6. of the application form) give names of routes done
 - iv. The application must be supported by an MCSA section and endorsed by the section's Chairperson signing the application form (item 7. and signature in the space provided)
 - v. The referees named (item 8. of the application form) must have previously agreed to support the expedition, know its objectives and team members and have agreed to act as referees. They must also be members of the MCSA and be available for comment
 - vi. For "equipment costs" (item. 9.1.4 in the application form) list only the additional gear that the expedition needs to purchase. Do not insert the total value of all the gear required for the expedition
 - vii. Under the form of support sought from the MCSA (item 9.3.1 of the application form), all sections must be filled in.
6. Should the MCSA decide to support the expedition, the form of support will not only be decided according to the wishes expressed in the expedition's application form, but also the following:
 - i. Grants made from the MCSA's National Expedition Fund are not intended to finance expeditions, but merely to provide sufficient seed money to help "get them off the ground".
 - ii. The amount granted will depend on the uniqueness of the expedition's objective as well as the ultimate perceived long term developmental benefit that will be derived by the South African mountaineering community and by the MCSA.
7. The MCSA may request the submission of further information regarding routes, planning or budgeting if it feels such information is necessary for a sound assessment.
8. The MCSA expects the expedition leader and all the expedition members to familiarise themselves with the laws and regulations of the country that they will be visiting, particularly those relating to mountaineering expeditions, and to abide by them.
9. The granting of any MCSA support to the expedition is conditional upon the expedition honouring the commitments regarding feedback to the MCSA set out in item 12. of the application form.
10. The MCSA must be informed immediately about any change in the expedition's objective or the composition of the expedition team. The MCSA reserves the right to reconsider any support that it has undertaken to give to the expedition in the event of changes to the expedition objective or composition of the team. By specifying the objectives of the expedition, the expedition leader and the members of the expedition undertake to make every reasonable effort to achieve those aims.



11. In the event of the expedition not taking place after receiving MCSA support in the form of travel assistance or a grant from the National Expedition Fund, the full monetary value of the assistance granted must be repaid to the MCSA by the expedition members within a period not exceeding 30 days, either from the date when the MCSA acknowledged in writing to the expedition leader that it had received notice to this effect, or from the expedition's commencement date recorded in item 5. of the application form.

12. The MCSA will bear no legal responsibility for considering an application for the support of an expedition, nor for granting such support in any form, arising from any claim made by the expedition, any of its members, or any other party.

This application will be considered in terms of the completed **“Application Form for Applicants Seeking Assistance from the MCSA for Expeditions”**. The Mountain Club of South Africa National Committee will communicate its response to the Expedition Leader in due course.

Contact person:

Ulrike Kiefer, National Convenor, MCSA National Expeditions

NOTE: This application procedure and the application details required have been modelled on the procedures and details currently applied by other major UIAA mountaineering federations for expeditions seeking support.

