
GRIT&ROCK EXPEDITION AWARD

ENABLING FEMALE FIRST ASCENTS

Press Release

GRIT&ROCK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2022 GRIT&ROCK FIRST ASCENT GRANTS

BACKGROUND

In September 2016 GRIT&ROCK FOUNDATION, a UK-based charity, established an annual international expedition grant award to promote female first ascents. The aims of the **GRIT&ROCK EXPEDITION AWARD** are to encourage female participation in pioneering alpine ascents and to further the understanding and exploration of the unclimbed peaks. The Award is open to individuals and climbing teams of any nationality with a majority female participation.

Since its inception six years ago, the foundation has contributed grants towards 25 female-led expeditions totalling USD 50,000.



GRIT&ROCK

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

- An experienced rope team of Priti and Jeff Wright towards their expedition on a virgin peak of K7 Central in Pakistan (USD 3,000).
- An all-female team of French and German alpinists, Lise Billion, Maud Vanpouille and Raphaëla Haug, towards an expedition to attempt new routes in the Rolwaling Valley of Nepal (USD 3,000).

EXPLORATION CATEGORY

- A team of young Chilean alpinists Nadine Lehrner, Isidora Llarena, and Rebeca Caceres towards their project to put up new routes on remote Cerro Arenales and Cerro Garcia on Chile's Northern Patagonian Icefield (USD 2,000).

APPRENTICESHIP CATEGORY

- Having reviewed its long and impressive track record of coaching young female alpinists, the jury decided to renew a general funding grant to the French National Female Alpine Team (ENAF) (USD 2,000)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Priti and Jeff Wright are a highly experienced wife-and-husband climbing team from the United States. During their sabbatical from Boeing in 2020, they have made an impressive first ascent of K6 Central in Pakistan.
- Nadine Lehner, Rebeca Caceres and Isidora Llarena



are qualified NOLS field instructors from Chile. Nadine is a founder of a Chulengo, a wilderness trekking company. In the course of 2021, the members of the team made two first ascents of remote Cerro Nora and Cerro Silvia on the Northern Patagonian Icefield.

- Lise Billion, Maud Vanpouille and Raphaella Haug are highly experienced climbers with a long list of impressive ascents. Lise and Maud are qualified French guides, and Raphaella is a German aspirant guide. All three honed their alpine skills as members of respective national climbing teams. Lise Billion became a second ever female recipient of Piolet d'Or in 2016 for her ascent of Cerro Riso Patron. Maud Vanpouille is finishing her PhD on risk-taking in mountaineering.
- French National Female Alpine team (ENAF) has been formed in 2007 on the basis of the French National Young Alpine team (FFME and ENJA). Next cohort of the team is the six one since its inception. ENAF has graduated some 35 female alpinists, with more than half going off to become guides or performing at a high level in alpinism. Its objective is to advance female performance in high mountains by providing rigorous training and expedition experience. The team is trained by two French guides, Lise Billion, 2016 Piolet d'Or recipient, and Jonathan Crison.

HELIAS MILLERIOUX, the Chair of the 2022 Jury, said: 'Our nominations this year are a testament to the spirit of times: sobriety, realism and sustainability. We picked the teams with ambitious and fresh ideas, those they have skills to execute on, traveling on modest budgets and



climbing in pure alpine style.'

MASHA GORDON, the founder of GRIT&ROCK, said: 'Once again we are happy to champion and enable development of female alpine talent. Much has changed in the past 6 years since we launched our expedition grant pool. Women are finally getting more media recognition and sponsorship spotlight. Still a lot remains to be done in the field of development of confidence and skills. That is why we are renewing our general grant funding to the formidable French National Female Alpine team (ENAF) that has done so much over the years to raise attainment of female alpinism to the next level.'