
GRIT&ROCK GRANT AWARDS

A USD15,000 annual expedition grant pool to support female advancement in mountaineering. Grants are established by GRIT&ROCK, a UK-based charity dedicated to using mountaineering and outdoors to help young women build grit and resilience. The aim of the GRIT&ROCK Expedition Grant Awards are to promote and encourage **female participation in pioneering alpine ascents** and to further the understanding and exploration of the unclimbed peaks. Grants are awarded in three distinct categories of PERFORMANCE, EXPLORATION AND APPRENTICESHIP. They are open to individuals and climbing teams with majority female participation and are meant to provide funding for those who need it most.

The application deadline for the GRIT&ROCK'2026 grant pool is March 31, 2026

GENERAL CRITERIA

- Lead applicants must be female and the team should at least 50% female participation.
- Individual team members must have independent alpine expedition experience.
- A strong preference will be given to the teams that have demonstrated past record of joint mountaineering projects.
- Application projects should reflect the spirit of the Award - first ascents and innovative new routes. Expedition proposals relating to the previously climbed routes will not be considered unless they are submitted for award consideration in the *Apprenticeship* category
- The team must demonstrate sufficient individual climbing standard to complete proposed route in a safe manner and remain self-sufficient through-out.
- It is expected that this grant will provide up to 30% of funding needed to undertake the project. Disbursal of the award is conditional on complete funding package being in place and climbing permits being in place.
- The panel will give preference to those for whom the grant support will make a significant difference to the viability of their trip.
- The award is for independent travel. Any journey joining a commercial expedition or pre-paid tour, including organised charity fundraising tours, will not be considered.
- GRIT&ROCK programs focus on inspiring young women to embrace outdoors as a way of building resilience and self-esteem. It is expected that the award recipients will tell the expedition story via social media outreach.



GRIT&ROCK

AWARD CATEGORIES

PERFORMANCE

This category is reserved for ambitious high-altitude ascents where the degree of difficulty of the project is carefully matched by a well-demonstrated skill.

EXPLORATION

This award category is reserved for beautifully crafted and well thought through projects on a smaller scale, such as exploration and mapping of new routes in remote areas of the world.

APPRENTICESHIP

This category is reserved for projects aimed at advancement of alpine skills and independence of those who are making further steps in their climbing career. Past example of such projects include a route performed alpine-style by a Nepali female guide who has previously climbed only with the use of fixed ropes under supervision of another accomplished climber.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications should be submitted by email to award@gritandrock.com by **March 31, 2026**.

Applications should contain the following information:

- Title and short abstract (max 100 words) with a proposed timeline of the ascent attempt.
- Detailed description of the proposed route with topographical maps and images.
- A budget, showing likely expenditure and sources of further funding, if required.
- A climbing plan with details of logistics necessary to accomplish the ascent (max 400 words).
- One page climbing CV for all team members involved in the expedition.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts in April of 2026.

CONDITIONS

- It is expected that the expedition will be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. The Award is conditional on receiving appropriate permits, sound climbing plan and ethical considerations. Personal medical and evacuation insurance must be in place for all team members before departure.
- Within one month of completion of the expedition, you will be required to submit a report with high resolution images documenting your ascent. A full final report must be submitted electronically three months following the completion of the expedition. The final report must include a 250 word abstract, full description of the route with

graphic map, three to five digital images that capture the spirit of the project and its results, a final budget, and a selection of the social media/media coverage.

- The award recipient may be asked to present a talk on the project work at the GRIT&ROCK school outreach program at a mutually convenient date with GRIT&ROCK covering expenses associated with travel.
- GRIT&ROCK Expedition Award support should be acknowledged in all publications and outputs. Copies of any such publications and outputs should be submitted to the GRIT&ROCK.
- Award details may be published on the GRIT&ROCK's website and used in promotional activity. Copyright in all text, images, film, audio and other outputs resulting from the award is to be held jointly by the recipient and GRIT&ROCK.
- GRIT&ROCK will offer support to the recipient in managing media outreach associated with their projects.

CONTACT

Masha Gordon at award@gritandrock.com



GRIT&ROCK