

2007 L.L. Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs Guidelines

The L.L.Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs program, named in recognition of that company's virtually exclusive underwriting of the program since the late 1980s, provides funds to assist ATC's Trail-maintaining clubs and their volunteers with projects related to Trail and facility construction, Trail maintenance, visitor services, and public education.

Earnings from several endowment funds also may be available for grants to A.T. clubs. Information and guidelines for those funds are found below. The application form and review and approval processes are the same as those for the L.L.Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs program.

2007 grant applications are due by October 2. A separate form is required for each grant request. Applications will be reviewed this fall, and awards that are approved will be included in ATC's 2007 budget. Clubs will be notified if their grants are approved shortly after the November Board meeting, with payments mailed out next spring unless a club requests another arrangement.

Application forms and guidelines are being e-mailed to Trail clubs and also may be downloaded from the ATC Web site at www.appalachiantrail.org/grantstoclubs. The form may be printed, completed, and mailed along with any supporting information to L.L.Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. Applications also may be faxed to (304) 535-2667 or e-mailed as an attachment to clubgrants@appalachiantrail.org.

Types of projects that will be considered:

1. Physical projects
 - Shelter or privy construction
 - Materials for new signs
 - Major tool purchases
 - Bridge construction
 - Trail construction

2. Start-up funds for major public service projects
 - Initial development of Trail or club brochure
 - Development of materials for new Trail education programs (*i.e.*, slide shows, written materials, specialized training)
 - Development of physical facility for information/education centers for the Trail
 - Money to cover costs of contracting staff on a short-term basis to assist Trail or club programs
 - Training for trail work, publications, club organizations, volunteer motivation, *etc.*

3. Major one-time financial needs
 - Assistance to complete construction of major relocation including capital improvements (*i.e.*, bridges, parking areas)
 - Assistance in developing a fundraising drive or membership drive
 - Sudden catastrophic loss or damage to the Trail or Trail facility
4. Projects to enhance club's long-term management abilities

Types of projects that generally would not be considered:

- Routine club expenses or normal maintenance costs
- Funds for ongoing projects, except those clearly of a start-up nature
- Requests where the club cannot demonstrate a matching contribution in labor, money, or in-kind contributions
- Proposals not supported with a plan for continued ongoing funding

Matching requirement

Clubs are expected to provide matching contributions for their grants with labor, money, or in-kind contributions. Volunteer time for 2007 projects may be valued at \$18.04 per hour.

Publicity

In order to increase the visibility of the club, the Conservancy, and the Appalachian Trail, ATC requests that grant recipients make specific public-relations efforts, such as local news releases, about projects funded through this program. Assistance is available for publicity efforts by contacting ATC at (304) 535-6331 ext. 111.

If your project involves new facility construction, please coordinate the project with your ATC regional office and the appropriate agency. If you would like assistance preparing your proposal, please contact your ATC regional office:

ATC New England Regional Office
E-mail: atc-nero@appalachiantrail.org
Telephone: (603) 795-4935

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
E-mail: atc-mar0@appalachiantrail.org
Telephone: (717) 258-5771

Cent./S.W. Virginia Regional Office
Office
E-mail: atc-varo@appalachiantrail.org
Telephone: (540) 953-3571

Tennessee/N.Carolina/Georgia Regional
Office
E-mail: atc-soro@appalachiantrail.org
Telephone: (828) 254-3708

The application deadline is October 2, 2006. If you need more time to prepare your applications, you may request an extension by e-mailing clubgrants@appalachiantrail.org or call ATC headquarters at (304) 535-6331 ext. 114.

GRANTS TO CLUBS ENDOWMENT FUNDS

In addition to the funds provided to ATC for the Grants to Clubs program by outdoor retailer L.L. Bean, the earnings of four endowment funds may be used to provide additional grants to A.T. clubs.

Who is eligible for grants from endowment funds?

Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs or affiliated organizations officially assigned a section of the A.T. for maintenance and/or management. Funds from the Ingram Memorial Fund are limited to projects associated with the Trail in Virginia.

How are grants to be made?

Generally grants are made on a matching basis. The match can be in money, materials, services, or volunteer labor provided by the club. Suitable projects with higher matches will be given greater consideration than those with lower matches.

What is the application procedure?

Applications should be submitted on the L.L.Bean Grants to A.T. Clubs application form. The appropriate box for type of project (shelter, bridge, other) should be checked on the form. Application forms and notice of the application deadline will be sent annually to clubs and other organizations along with the ATC grants to clubs information.

Compliance with policies and guideline

All projects should comply with ATC's "Policy on Managing the Trail for a Primitive Experience." Additionally, any new shelter construction, including associated privies and protected water sources, should meet appropriate A.T. guidelines as contained in the *Local Management Planning Guide* (LMPG) Chapters 2-F, G, and H), as well as appropriate agency rules. Bridge construction should meet guidelines contained in LMPG Chapter 2-C. The LMPG and policies adopted since the Guide was last updated in 1997 may be found on ATC's Web site at www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/policies/lmpg.

MARK SPERLING TRAIL SHELTER IMPROVEMENT FUND—provides up to \$1,000 per year for maintenance, construction, and rehabilitation projects associated with Appalachian Trail shelters.

Consideration will be given to projects involving shelter construction, improvements, rehabilitation, or maintenance. Although innovative techniques are encouraged, the fund seeks to preserve traditional shelters and use of natural materials where possible. New shelter construction should be limited to materials such as log, rock, or plank, rather than processed materials such as plywood or concrete block, and should be limited in size to sleep 12 or fewer persons.

Projects associated with the A.T. shelter system also will be considered:

- Spring improvements, including pumps, spring boxes, wells, *etc.*
- Sanitation facilities, including privies
- Tent platforms
- Signing of shelters, water sources, sanitation facilities

BEQUAERT AND KINGERY MEMORIAL SHELTER FUND—Established in memory of Michael Bequaert and Andrew Kingery by Frank and Lucia Bequaert, Michael's father and Andrew's mother. Michael and Andrew were stepbrothers who loved the outdoors and backpacking and hiked together over many sections of the Long Trail in Vermont and the A.T. Andrew thru-hiked the A.T. in 1978.

Grants from the fund generally will range from \$500 to \$1,000 and will be used for maintenance, construction, and rehabilitation projects associated with Appalachian Trail shelters.

Consideration will be given to projects involving shelter construction, improvements, rehabilitation, relocation, or maintenance. Although innovative techniques are encouraged, the fund seeks to preserve traditional shelters and use of natural materials when possible.

Other projects associated with the A.T. shelter system also will be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Spring improvements including pumps, spring boxes, wells, *etc.*
- Sanitation facilities including privies
- Tent platforms

WILLIAM T. FOOT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT BRIDGE FUND—established in memory of William ("Bill") Foot by his wife, Laurie. Bill was an outdoor enthusiast and A.T. thru-hiker who died in 2000. He was an active member of the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club and served as club president. He served on the ATC Board of Managers in the early 1990s. Bill was instrumental in the planning and completion of a pedestrian bridge for the A.T. as it crosses the James River in Virginia—the 625-foot bridge that removed the footpath from a dangerous and congested vehicular bridge is named in his memory.

Grants from the fund generally will range from \$500 to \$2,000 and are limited to maintenance, construction, and rehabilitation projects associated with bridges along the Appalachian Trail.

A "bridge" refers to an artificial structure not in continuous contact with the ground, regardless of length, width, or height above the surface. This definition includes the traditional span bridges, as well as puncheon-type bridging to cross wetlands or boggy surfaces. Bridge design, materials, and construction should conform to current local club, partner, and ATC guidelines.

ROBERT LEE INGRAM MEMORIAL FUND—*established in memory of Robert Lee Ingram by his family. Robert was an ATC member who lived in Virginia and grants are restricted to projects in Virginia. Robert frequently hiked the Appalachian Trail and introduced many members of his family to hiking and the A.T.*

Generally, grants will range from \$500 to \$1,000 and may be used for maintenance, construction, and rehabilitation projects associated with the Trail in Virginia.

Grant applications for tools, materials, and resource-protection and resource-management projects associated with the stewardship for the Trail as it traverses Virginia will be considered. For example, grants might be awarded to help clubs purchase chain saws, test water sources, purchase land or easements, maintain views, or print Trail literature.