Personal Adventure Fund

Westminster College graduate and former Outdoor Program Trip Leader, Charlie Ramser, established this fund with the goal of helping trip leaders gain valuable experience planning and executing personal adventures. Charlie noted during his time at Westminster that there are already resources available to support students in pursuing professional development in the form of professionally-run courses, certifications, and staff training. While these are all important pieces of the trip leader process, Charlie sees the lessons learned through personal experience as being equally important in the development of strong outdoor leadership skills. This scholarship fund was established to provide encourage students to pursue that type of experience.

Potential Awards and Information:

- Selected applicants will receive up to $400 towards their trip.
- Recipients will be notified by the end of March.
- Recipients will receive the award by early April.

Guidelines:

- Applications are due by February 29th
- There are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to this scholarship. If you have an idea for a trip, submit an application and see what happens. If you think it will be a worthy adventure, chances are it is.
- Preferred Trip Types:
  - Backcountry/expedition-style trips - Trips that take place exclusively or nearly exclusively in the backcountry, with limited access to towns, roads, cars, trailheads, etc.
  - Adventures off the beaten path/to remote places - While these might not be strictly wilderness/backcountry-based trips, they should provide an experience and sharpen skills similar to those that would be gained from a wilderness trip. Common examples would be bike tours, ski trips, climbing trips, white water trips, etc.
- Trips should be goal-oriented. For example, don’t plan a climbing trip where you car camp and hang out at the crag all day. Define specific goals that you believe will help you grow as an outdoors person.
- The trip must be completed by the start of the coming Fall Semester.
- Scholarship recipients will be required to share their experience with current and prospective Outdoor Program trip leaders through a presentation to be conducted by the end of the following Fall Semester.
- Applicants must be current Westminster College students and be current or prospective Outdoor Program trip leaders.
- Students graduating at the end of the current semester are still eligible.
Conditions:

- If your trip falls through and you don’t go for any reason, you are expected to return the fund in full.
- If your trip is significantly affected/hampered by weather or other external forces, you will be expected to do your best to make the trip work or find an acceptable alternative. These types of situations can be great learning experiences, which is the point of this fund. Persevere, don’t just quit.
- E-mail your application/ideas to csr0420@westminstercollege.edu