

VOLUNTEER SUBSIDY GUIDE

2025

The Edmonton Section recognizes that supporting a community of mountain enthusiasts relies on volunteers to organize trips and events, to share skills and provide mentorship, and to safely manage groups in mountain terrain. To this end, the Section supports ongoing training by offering financial assistance to current and aspiring volunteers, as follows:

- **“Core” Course Subsidy** for specific training related to risk management and emergency response;
- **Other Course Subsidy** for member-selected training to continue personal skill development and progression as a trip leader; and
- **Gear Subsidy** for provision of equipment.

This document outlines the qualification requirements, amounts and eligible expenditures, and the application procedure.

How to Qualify

Current members of the Edmonton Section can qualify for financial assistance by demonstrating a commitment to the sustainability of the Section through volunteer contributions. Members can contribute to the Section in a variety of ways, both in and out of the mountains. Contributions are recognized with a point system as follows:

- **1 point** (to max of 20) - Assisting with in-town events or activities (belay checker, hosting an activity-based urban event such as training sessions or informal meetups).
- **2 points** (to max of 20) – In-town event in a central role that involves some degree of organization, coordination, instruction, etc (e.g. presenting at a monthly meeting, organizing a workshop or seminar, assisting an instructional session).
- **5 points** – For (a) each intermediate or advanced rated trip on the trip schedule, and (b) coordinating a guided or volunteer-led course for Section members.
- **7 points** – For (a) each “novice” or “novice with prior experience” trip, (b) instructing on a volunteer-led Section course weekend, and (c) serving on the Board or a committee for a year.
- **10 points** - For organizing camps or trips greater than 5 days duration and where significant organization, coordination, or other leadership capacity is involved..

Points for trips apply to the primary coordinator. Co-leaders may also qualify for points where their involvement in a trip is essential to supporting the activity (i.e. for large groups requiring multiple leaders).

Timeframe

Points accumulate during a two year window, which is currently **Oct. 1st, 2024 to Sept. 30th, 2026**. Applications are due on or before, Oct. 1st, 2026. Applicants are welcome to submit applications prior to Oct. 1st, 2026 should they accumulate sufficient points. Points do not carry forward to the next two year period. Courses can be taken at any time during the two year window.

Subsidy Amounts and Eligible Expenses

Table 1, below, outlines the types and amount of financial assistance offered by the Section, and defines the specific expenses that are eligible under the program.

TABLE 1: VOLUNTEER SUBSIDY AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES		
TYPE	AMOUNTS <i>(Note 1)</i>	ELIGIBLE COURSES/EXPENSES
“Core” Course	Initial: \$200, with first 5 points. Discretionary top up: \$100 for each additional increment of 5 points. Max: \$500/course.	→ Wilderness First Aid (Min 16 hr), Wilderness First Responder (or other 40+ hr equivalent), WFA re-certification. → Avalanche Skills Training (AST) 2 or higher → AST 1 (for active Ice Climbing Leaders only) → Rock/Ice Rescue Systems, Improvised High-Angle Rescue (any level) → Crevasse Rescue (Advanced)
Other Course	Initial: \$200, with first 10 points. Discretionary top up: \$100 for each additional increment of 10 points. Max: \$500/course.	Includes most other courses <i>(Note 2)</i> taught by ACMG Rock, Alpine, Ski, or Mountain Guide, or a guide certified by an IFMGA Member organization. Custom courses with an emphasis on instruction can be developed by members. Can also include courses in mountain weather or mountain navigation taught by qualified persons. Does not include expenses related to travel and accommodations.
Gear	Initial: \$50 gift certificate for first 20 points. Discretionary top-up: \$50 gift certificate for next increment of 20 points. Max: \$100	The intent of this category is to off-set the cost of gear leaders use on a Section trip. Examples include: first aid supplies, equipment designed specifically for rescue, communication devices, tarps or shelters. Eligible gear is not dictated and is at the discretion of the applicant. No receipts are required.

Notes:

1. Points are like credits; they cannot be used more than once (i.e. “double-dipped”). Where an application includes various courses, points will be allocated first to “core” courses followed by other courses, and then gear. Notwithstanding the above, the total allocated for course subsidies shall not exceed the total course fee(s).
2. Courses are not limited to offerings from the ACC. Courses that are generally not eligible are introductory courses designed to teach “entry-level” skills for a given sport such as basic or introductory technique, or guided trips that do not include a significant instructional component, and courses instructed by volunteers. To pre-approve a course that you believe could benefit your development as a trip coordinator, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

Claiming the Subsidy

To claim a subsidy, complete the [Volunteer Subsidy Application Form](#). Ensure you have documentation ready to upload (course receipt and completion confirmation such as a certificate) and a list of your volunteer activities ready to input into the form (trip/event, date(s), points).

Limitations

All applications are reviewed by the Volunteer Coordinator and all subsidy amounts are allocated on a discretionary basis. The volunteer subsidy program is based on a fixed annual budget. In the event that claims exceed available budget, the section reserves the right to distribute available funds based on the number of applicants and the total contributions to the Section. As such, payment may be delayed until after Oct. 1 in order to distribute discretionary increments equitably.

Other Subsidies and Grants Available to Members

National ACC Grants and Scholarships: Additional funding for a variety of initiatives is available to members through the National office of the ACC. Details can be found at <https://alpineclubofcanada.ca/grants/>. Grants and scholarships have a deadline of **January 31st** and include the following:

- [Jen Higgins Grant for Young Women](#): for projects that promote alpine-related outdoor pursuits for young women.
- [Jim Colpitts Memorial Scholarship](#): for members aged 17 to 24 to dedicate toward an avalanche, wilderness first aid, mountain leadership, ACMG training or other mountain course.
- [Karl Nagy Memorial Scholarship](#): biennial opportunity for experienced volunteer leaders to further develop their skills as an amateur leader during a week of the GMC and to gain invaluable experience guiding and leading under the supervision of the Camp staff.
- [John Lauchlan Memorial Award](#): for promoting mountain experiences that challenge the human spirit. Awarded annually to a lightweight Canadian team pursuing an innovative, bold, exploratory, environmentally sensitive, non-commercial objective.
- [ACC Environment Grant](#): provides financial support for projects that contribute to the protection and preservation of mountain and climbing environments, including the preservation of alpine flora and fauna in their natural habitat.