

**Basic Stuff:**

Applicant Name(s) and Year(s) Gary Freilich, 2008:

Intended destination Chamonix, France; Swiss Alps; Italian Dolomites:

Dates of the trip June 7-19, 2006:

Are you applying as an individual, or as a group? (If you're applying as a group, one application can be submitted for the whole group, but all budget numbers need to be per individual.) Individual

**BUDGET**

**Total Cost of Trip (including mountaineering equipment): \$2,160**

**Total Cost of Trip (not including mountaineering equipment): \$1,340**

Breakdown of costs:

Round-trip airfare (NYC to Milan, Italy): \$590

8 nights in mountain huts or youth hostels: \$160 (~\$20/night)

Food: \$150 (~\$12/day)

France/Switzerland/Italy regional train pass: \$275

International Stove: \$80

2 Fuel bottles: \$22

Sleeping Pad: \$35

Bivvy Sack: \$30

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Mountaineering equipment for climbing Mont Blanc and/or other nearby peaks:

-- Note: There is the possibility that this gear can be rented --

Mountaineering Boots: \$365

Crampons: \$108

Sunglasses: \$49

Ice axe: \$100

Rope: \$195

The Schlitz Fund is the only funding I am applying for. I will be paying for the rest out of my own pocket. In terms of how much money I am asking for from the DOC, anything you can provide would help out a great deal. I think that perhaps the most important items on the list are the five pieces of mountaineering equipment (mountaineering boots, crampons, axe, and sunglasses). These (along with the stove, fuel bottle, sleeping pad, and bivvy sack), are in my eyes more of an investment than a one-time use expense like air, food, rail, and accommodations. Any equipment that I buy, rather than rent, will get many years of good use. I have two and a half more years at Dartmouth and hopefully many more after that to use anything I buy. I've already rented this type of equipment countless times from DOR, and it would be nice to finally be able to invest in this

equipment and have it whenever I need it. However, I would happily accept any funding for any and all portions of the trip, whatever you see fit. I am quite grateful for anything!

What is your intended [adventure](#) (schedule and route description, including travel to and from [the destination](#))? [Provide as much objective information as possible, including but not limited to detailed maps, ratings, classifications, mileages, etc, history of other expeditions in the area, climate information, geographic, environmental, social and political nature of your destination including specifically any United States Government issued travel restrictions or advisories.](#)

I will be in Prague for the Spring term on the Geography FSP. When the program ends on June 7<sup>th</sup>, I am taking a train from Prague to Geneva, where I am meeting a friend (not from Dartmouth). After meeting up, we are taking a train to Chamonix, France. For the next five days, our primary goal is to climb Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in the Alps. The climb is not particularly technical, although sound mountaineering skills and some alpine experience is certainly recommended. There are a few possible problems with this climb: not enough time to acclimatize, bad weather, and/or poor trail conditions (as June is the beginning of the normal climbing season). The biggest concern is the weather, and that is why we are allowing up to five days for what is normally a two day climb. If the climb is unfeasible for any reason, or if we are successful after only two days, then the remaining time will be spent doing low-difficulty climbing around the Mont Blanc Massif. This is the section where the mountaineering equipment will be necessary (either to purchase it or rent in Chamonix).

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we are taking the train back to Geneva and meeting a third person also not from Dartmouth. After we meet, we plan on spending the next week primarily hiking in southern/southwestern Switzerland. This portion of the trip is not finalized regarding exactly where we want to go. In all likelihood, we are going to formulate some ideas and make a tentative itinerary in the coming weeks, but more likely than not, play it by ear once we are there. It is also quite likely that we will go to Italian Dolomites for a few days and hike/climb some of the vie ferrata – exposed hikes/climbs with fixed rope, ladder, and/or railing to clip-in to. This week (in Switzerland and Italy) will be very low difficulty and danger. Finally, on the night of June 18<sup>th</sup>, I will be taking a train to Milan, Italy and flying back to New York on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

[In this section, please consider the following questions: Why is this trip important to you? What is your background for this type of activity? What skills do you have, or what do you plan to do to get ready for the trip? Does this trip represent a challenge to your skill level? Have you been to this area or undertaken similar or related activities before?](#)

This trip is important to me because it will be the first time I will be traveling without any sort of family, guide, or leader. I will be with a maximum of two friends and it will be our responsibility to make sound decisions throughout the trip. This is certainly a challenge I welcome and look forward to. In terms of my experience, I am currently taking the Winter Mountaineering P.E. course which I expect to help me a great deal with the Mont Blanc climb. I have also done a half dozen or so hikes in VT/NH using

mountaineering boots and crampons, which is good just for experience and building confidence. To prepare specifically for the conditions we may encounter on Mont Blanc, the friend who I will be climbing with is going to come up to Dartmouth for a weekend in February and we are going to spend two days and one or two nights hiking, climbing, camping, and generally practicing in the Presidential Range. His experience is far more substantial than my own, and this climb probably represents far less of a challenge for him than it does for myself. For the second part of the trip, once the third member of our group meets us, I am much more experienced with regard to the terrain that we will encounter. I have quite extensive hiking experience in all parts of North America, Europe, and beyond, from day hiking with my family to the Cabin and Trail backpacking Spring Break trip to Canyonlands N.P. and Durango, CO. In terms of rock climbing skills (for the vie ferrata), I am proficient in sport climbing up to 5.10 and leading at least 5.7, which is far more than is necessary for what we will be doing. Furthermore, one of my friends I will be with has worked at a climbing gym for five years and has climbed and trained with some of the best climbers in the world. Regarding altitude, I have spent a week in Switzerland in February during my junior year of high school where I primarily did day hikes in the mountains. I went a bit over 14,000 feet, and had no problems with altitude. I have been to similar altitudes in other locations and have never had any problems, and I don't expect to have any major difficulties on Mont Blanc, considering it is only 1,500 feet higher than I've been already. In terms of being physically fit, I have run almost every day that I've been healthy for the last 5 years, so my conditioning should not present much of a problem. In short, this trip certainly does represent a challenge to me, particularly the first part. However, I do believe I am well prepared and am quite excited for the responsibility and challenge.

**Risk Management and Safety:**

Please describe any risks or safety concerns that you anticipate encountering on your trip. This may include anything from dangerous animals to weather conditions to political situations. How might these factors affect your plan? What measures will you take to ensure your safety (e.g. becoming First Aid certified, carrying a satellite or cell phone, traveling with a companion, etc)? Also, please address your back up plan in the event that you encounter any obstacles or setbacks.

Certainly the greatest dangers we may encounter on this trip would be our own poor judgment. I feel that by allowing three extra days for only a two day climb, we are building in time for bad conditions or any other unforeseen problems we may encounter. Furthermore, by not limiting ourselves to only accomplishing one climb in particular, we are availing ourselves to a greater array of possibilities if conditions warrant a change in plans. To ensure our safety, I will have an international cell phone from my time in Prague, and we will have two-way radios in case we lose each other. Obviously, our greatest safety feature is each other, and by having spent many weeks hiking and climbing together for many years and furthermore by practicing in the Presidentials this winter, I think that we be very good partners. In the event that climbing Mont Blanc is either unwise or for any reason not possible, we have almost an unlimited number of other options given our location and the excellent transportation system throughout

Europe. Probably, we would still hike/climb on the Mont Blanc massif, but at lower altitudes and in less exposed sections if conditions are unsafe.

**How You Plan to Give Back to the DOC:**

One of the primary goals of the Schlitz fund is to enrich the DOC and inspire and educate its members. Please describe how the skills and experience that you gain on your adventure could enrich the DOC. This may include new technical or leaderships skills or an insight into regional or cultural perspectives. In return for funding, we require two contributions to the DOC:

- 1) Some form of written report, narrative, or essay. This can be anything from a 'how-to' report, discussing logistics and problems that you may have faced to a creative narrative or essay submission to Woodsmoke (the DOC's publication of trip reports, essays, poetry and pictures, distributed to Club members and others).
  
- 2) Another, ideally interactive, contribution of your choosing. For example, this may be in the form of a guided trip, presentation, or workshop. Creativity is encouraged – this is your opportunity to share your skills and experience directly with other DOC members.

I think that the best way for me to give back to the DOC would be to teach other members what I will learn on this trip. Ultimately, after completing winter mountaineering and going on this trip, I would like to try to become a leader for the DMC in ice climbing (as well as in sport climbing) next winter, and lead the beginner ice climbing trips that gave me a start in this sport. If possible, I'd love to help teach the winter mountaineering course I am currently taking by my senior year. Also, I absolutely love talking about traveling with other people, so I could happily provide information about hiking and climbing in the Alps to anyone who may want to pursue a similar trip in the future. Beyond that, I'd love to write a trip-report for Woodsmoke or possibly a brief guide on how to plan and carry out your first climbing trip for students who may want to do something similar to what I will be doing this summer. Personally, I have already learned a great deal just by reading and researching information for this trip. Thanks for everything!

Today's Date: January 29, 2006

Dates of Expedition: June 7-19, 2006

Name of Expedition: Hiking and Climbing in the Alps

Dear Schlitz Fund Recipient:

The purpose of this letter is to ensure our mutual understanding regarding the contribution being made in support of your planned expedition. The money provided to you is for use in facilitating the trip outlined in your application, and we expect you to account for how the money was expended at the trip's conclusion. This contribution is made unconditionally, except for the expectation that you will provide an accounting with regard to your expenditure of the contributed funds. If for any reason you do not

follow through on your plan to mount this expedition then we expect that the full amount of our contribution will be returned.

Please note that the IRS may consider the money received by you to be income reportable on Form 1099 for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Conducting a trip of this sort requires a great deal of planning and preparation. Medical emergencies and other unforeseen and unanticipated difficulties can arise without warning. By undertaking to organize, plan, prepare for, and conduct this trip on your own, you have assumed the full and sole responsibility for your safety and for putting in place plans for dealing with emergencies. I specifically want to make clear that while you are receiving financial support from the Dartmouth Outing Club, neither the Dartmouth Outing Club, Outdoor Programs or Dartmouth College assumes any responsibility for your safety or any liability for any loss or injury occurring on or in conjunction with the expedition.

We wish you the best of luck on this challenging and unique adventure.

Sincerely,  
The Schlitz Fund Committee

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and your understanding of its contents by signing below. Signature: Gary Freilich Date: 1/29/06

Emergency contact information while on this trip: Maxine + Jay Freilich 203-329-3293