

REQUIRING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Camps and outdoor education experiences are wonderful opportunities for people to learn and develop as individuals and as groups. There will always be financial issues for some groups and MERC encourages you to plan well ahead when arranging finances for camp. Don't hesitate to use your community to seek funding. Pubs and gaming machines are an excellent source of funds as they must give money away to their local community. Often MERC is unable to source such funding yet school groups can. Another source of funding is to ask local businesses to donate some money towards your stay. Groups are obviously encouraged to fundraise for themselves.

Another funding avenue is the Lottery Grants Board 'Youth', which funds School Camps. (Call Ph. 0800 824 824 for an application form). MERC will write a supporting letter and provide programme details with supporting material to assist you with your application.

The MERC Disadvantaged Fund

The Disadvantaged Fund is for individuals or groups who would otherwise be excluded from coming to MERC because of financial hardship. **MERC believes that, given enough notice, schools and families should be able to raise most of the funds to be a part of the MERC experience.** The Disadvantaged Fund is for those who, despite all the best efforts of their school, their community and themselves still cannot afford to visit MERC.

The MERC Disadvantaged Fund is a finite resource. The money in this fund is sourced from business houses and individuals as well as from the Board of Trustees' own resources and from philanthropic trusts. This is an arduous and time consuming process and therefore MERC must ensure that these funds are targeted towards the people who most need them and that all other options have been pursued.

To apply for the Disadvantaged Fund, Groups must send a formal application to MERC stating specifically who the subsidy is for, why the subsidy is required and how much is requested. Please also include details of all fundraising efforts by your own group. Your request will then be considered by the MERC management and Board of Trustees and the group will be informed of their decision as soon as possible.

The application must be made as early as possible to MERC. Retrospective applications will not be considered.

Please send letters of application to the Bookings Manager

Email: office@merc.org.nz

Postal: Marine Education and Recreation Centre

P.O. Box 35 119

Browns Bay

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