

Title of Proposal

Student Recreation Center Bouldering Elements

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UA Foundation Account Number

02-11010.535

Summary

The Department of Campus Recreation is requesting \$25,000.00. This will provide financial assistance for three bouldering elements that will provide low level climbing/traversing opportunities. The overall cost is \$220,000.00, and this is a new activity that will allow rock climbing participants to train, practice and build strength in a controlled environment. The elements will be located in the courtyard entrance of the expansion just north of the Outdoor Adventures building. A plaque engraved and in the shape of a small boulder has been donated by the manufacturer of the elements (Enterprise) to display special thanks to the Parents Association should this grant be approved.

Overview of Program Seeking Funding

The Department of Campus Recreation has been housed in the award winning Student Recreation Center since the Fall of 1990. The current program offerings include: A-Camp and Teen Camp, Activity Classes, Aquatics, Challenge (Ropes Course), Fitness, Intramurals, Outdoor Adventures, Personal Training, Special Events, and Sport Clubs. Over 23,433 students utilized the Student Recreation Center in 2007. We foresee a sizable increase in the usage pattern when the expansion opens in January 2010. Part of the University's mission is to promote health and wellness. The Department of Campus Recreation plays a major role in fostering a healthy lifestyle by introducing students to activities that they will continue to practice long after they leave The University of Arizona. In a campus-wide bench mark survey (administered by Student Voice) students were asked to rate the importance of the following: How important will maintaining a healthy lifestyle be to you after you leave this institution? Ninety percent responded that it was important (61 very important and 29 moderately important). The Student Recreation Center is the fourth most used facility on campus and is a social hub of the university community. Sixty-three percent of the student population uses the facility.

Students unanimously voted on a referendum to fund the expansion of the Student Recreation Center. The project is currently underway and will be completed in November, 2009 with a grand opening slated for February 2010. Part of the design of the expansion was to have more outdoor space available for activities. Students rated potential offerings and out of that came a decision to move forward with the idea of bouldering elements. Being a totally new option for students, these boulders can become the signature feature of the expansion; while providing a new, safe and challenging activity that will occur outside. With the location just in front of the new Outdoor Adventures space, the boulders will likely draw participants into Outdoor Adventures to discover their trip and equipment rental packages.

Abstract of the Grant Proposal

The Department of Campus Recreation requests \$25,000.00 of the total cost of \$220,000.00 for bouldering rocks to be located in the courtyard of the SRC expansion. These boulders will provide new programming and open recreation opportunities for novice, intermediate and experienced climbers in a controlled environment. Climbers may not have the time to travel to natural rocks so these boulders will allow them to learn and improve upon their climbing techniques while building strength.

Detailed Statement of the Proposal

Background

Climbing walls and bouldering elements have become very popular additions to recreations centers in the last ten years, particularly in the newly constructed recreation centers. Due to space constraints and cost of construction of a climbing wall, it was decided that adding bouldering rocks would be a practical less expensive approach. The design team was charged with producing a design to accommodate three bouldering elements.

These elements are designed to look like large boulders with an approximate footprint of 6' X 12' and approximately 12' high. Each boulder has multiple handholds strategically placed or marked for different skill levels. Climbers are not attached to any belay system making it easy for a single climber to train or exercise on the boulder. A soft material serves as a landing area should a climber fall off the wall. The Outdoor Adventure program would oversee and maintain the boulders and incorporate them into trainings for participants who sign up for the rock climbing classes. The boulders would otherwise be available to patrons whenever the Student Recreation Center is open.

It would be difficult to predict usage because this is a new activity that requires no direct supervision. We anticipate this activity to be very popular as students will climb for a few minutes or get a full work out by training for longer periods.

The elements will accommodate single users working on their own or groups training together. The boulders will also serve as an introduction for new climbers who can then take advantage of climbing classes offered by Outdoor Adventures.

Itemized Budget

\$220.000

Assessment of Outcomes

Participants will be surveyed to determine satisfaction level after opening of facility.