



"Funding for Challenge Program Helmets"

Proposed Motion: Approve \$1,600 to purchase of 44 helmets from New Equipment [FXXNEE].

Sponsor: AS VP for Business and Operations // Morgan Burke

Persons of Contact: Challenge Program Coordinator // Jonathan Mayfield

Date: March 3, 2014

Attached Document

Helmet Description / Justification

Background & Context

This proposal is a request for the funds required to replace the Challenge Program's helmets. Helmets are a critical piece of safety gear for the Lakewood high ropes course. Our current helmets were purchased in 1997 and have been used far past their safety life. All of the 9 current helmets meet the manufacturer's (Petzl) signs for retirement.

Additionally, Challenge Program policies mandate that all participants (and facilitators) in the vicinity of the high ropes course must at all times wear a helmet. The 9 helmets currently owned by the Challenge Program do not allow for this guideline to be followed safely.

Summary of Proposal

The proposal is for the purchase of 36 participant helmets (18 S/M and 18 M/L) and 8 facilitator helmets (4 S/M and 4 M/L). The number of helmets is increasing in order to be able to properly follow out safety and risk management policies. Current Challenge Program policy dictates that all personnel (both facilitators and participants) must wear a helmet when operating or participating on any high ropes element. The Challenge Program currently has 36 participant harnesses, and in order to operate in a safe manner, the Challenge Program must have a helmet for each of the possible 36 participants.

The request for the increase of Challenge Program helmets from 9 to 36 is based on several key factors. The average Challenge Program group size for the year of 2013 was 30 participants. 12 of the 41 programs facilitated by the Challenge Program had over 30 participants. In 2013, the Challenge Program served a total of 1,254 participants. Group size in 2013 varied between 5 and 92 participants. In addition to the participants, any additional group members (supervisors, teachers, chaperones, etc. also must follow the helmet protocol when accompanying their group at the Lakewood Ropes Course. 36 helmets would allow the Challenge Program to properly facilitate a group of 30 without having to make additional accommodations.

Currently, when the Challenge Program facilitates a group larger 9 participants, there are two currently available options that allow safe operation without the appropriate number of helmets. Both options require added cost to the Challenge Program while operating. Option one involves scheduling more facilitators. In order to ensure safe operation, 9 helmets requires that only 9 participants be in the vicinity of the Lakewood Ropes Course at any given time. With an average group of 30 participants, instead of scheduling (and paying) the required 3 facilitators, the Challenge Program would be required to field a total of 6 facilitators. The group of 30 would have to be divided into 3 separate groups and rotated into the vicinity of the high ropes course. This method of operation

has two distinct drawbacks. First, it double the personnel cost of the operating the high ropes course. This increase of cost removes the possibility of generating any net income from operating the high ropes course. Additionally, operating in this way reduces the interactions between the group, as-a-whole, lessening the impact through their experiences at the ropes course. Option two requires the Challenge Program to rent helmets from the Outdoor Center Rental Shop. The Challenge Program pays \$2.17 to the Rental Shop for every helmet used per program. In addition to the costs of renting the helmets, on many weekends, the quantity of helmets required are not available for the Challenge Program's use due to student rentals. While these two options have allowed the Challenge Program to operate safely, neither option is a long-term solution, and will ultimately cost the Challenge Program more that purchasing the proper number of helmets.

The request for 8 facilitator helmets is based upon two factors. First, with a group of 36 participants, the maximum number of facilitators that could be required to work is 8. With a group of 36 participants, the group would be broken down into 3-4 groups with 2 facilitators with each subgroup. Additionally, the largest group hosted at the Lakewood Challenge Course in 2013 had 88 participants. To minimally follow operating policy, the Challenge Program would have to field 8 facilitators, thus requiring 8 facilitator helmets. In order to visually separate facilitators and participants, it is very important to have enough facilitator helmets for all scheduled facilitators.

The funds for this purchase will come from two sources: FXXGRR for the replacement of the existing 9 helmets and FXXNEE for the cost of the additional 35 helmets.

Fiscal Impacts

The funds for this purchase will come from two sources: FXXGRR for the replacement of the existing 9 helmets and FXXNEE for the cost of the additional 35 helmets.

The total estimated fiscal impact to AS Budgets is \$1870.37. This estimate includes the replacement of the existing 9 helmets, the purchase of 35 new helmets, and estimated tax and shipping. The breakdown of the expenses is below:

Impact to FXXGRR (VU General Repair & Replacement)

9 participant helmets [x] \$35.97 = \$323.73
Total (FXXGRR) = \$323.73

Impact to FXXNEE (New Equipment Expenses)

27 participant helmet [x] 35.97 = \$971.19
8 facilitator helmets [x] \$35.97 = \$287.76
Estimated tax = \$1582.68 [x] 0.087 = \$137.69
Estimated shipping = \$150
Total (FXXNEE) = \$1546.64

Rationale

By replacing the current helmets used by the Challenge Program, there would be distinct benefit to the Challenge Program and the AS as a whole. Primarily, purchasing the new helmets would allow the Challenge Program to operate safely and in accordance with our policies and procedures. By purchasing the proper number of helmets, it will allow the Challenge Program to serve groups better; by having the appropriate number of helmets, the Challenge Program will be able to allow the whole group to participate, rather than only a select number of the group's participants.

Helmet Description/ Justification

The helmet recommended for purchase for the proposal "Funding for Challenge Program Helmets," is the Black Diamond Half Dome Helmet. Each helmet will cost \$35.97.

The Half Dome is a hybrid helmet with an internal shell of molded EPS foam and a rigid external shell. The helmet comes in two sizes, S/M and M/L. In order to ensure the best fit possible for Challenge Program participants and facilitators, the proposal recommends the purchase of an even share of S/M and M/L helmets. Black Diamond makes five color options for the helmet, and, for the participant helmets, the S/M and M/L helmets will be distinguished by color for easy fitting. All of the facilitator helmets will be Orange to ensure visibility and differentiation from participant helmets.

Black Diamond is the chosen vendor due to the fact that the Outdoor Center has a pre-existing wholesale account with them. Other comparable helmets on the market would cost the Outdoor Center anywhere between \$40 and \$70 per helmet. The Black Diamond Half Dome is an industry-accepted helmet for comfort and safety. Because of the helmet's satisfactory safety and durability and the savings in cost, the Black Diamond Half Dome Helmet is the best choice for this purchase.



BLACK DIAMOND HALF DOME HELMET - \$35.97