



## THE ABILITY EXPERIENCE

A PI KAPPA PHI PHILANTHROPY

### HISTORY

The Ability Experience, the national philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, was founded in 1977 when the fraternity sought to better serve its community through forming a new organization. Rather than partnering with an existing charity, Pi Kappa Phi created The Ability Experience to set themselves apart from other fraternities while working towards the common goal of serving people with disabilities. Through The Ability Experience, Pi Kappa Phi members have grown to become leaders through service at their colleges and universities, as well as in their community.

### MISSION

The Ability Experience uses shared experiences to support people with disabilities and develop the men of Pi Kappa Phi into servant leaders. We want to create a community, one relationship at a time, where the abilities of all people are recognized and valued. The Ability Experience event participants, not only learn about disability awareness, but also raise the necessary funds for the service projects, allowing them to see first hand where the money is distributed across the country. Our construction project grants are awarded to organizations that we believe will help further our mission.

### ABILITY WEEKEND

Pi Kappa Phi members come together for weekend projects throughout the spring and fall to construct accessible amenities for organizations that serve people with disabilities, such as accessible playgrounds, amphitheaters and canoe docks. In the spirit of old-fashioned barn raising, these students donate time and labor so that children and adults of all abilities can enjoy the premises and interact together. Ability Weekends are regional construction events planned around the availability of Pi Kappa Phi chapters in the area. If an Ability Weekend was held at your organization or in the same state, it is unlikely that we would host another for at least a year. Call to find out if you are eligible for a grant. Grants do not exceed \$5,000 and must be at least 50% matched with in-kind or matching gifts. The entire amount of the grant must go toward the purchasing of materials for the Ability Weekend projects. Grant recipients are responsible for securing lodging and meals for the volunteers.

### ABILITY CAMP

Pi Kappa Phi members come together during the month of March for an alternative Spring Break experiences. These events take place at selected residential camps around the country that serve people with disabilities. Student volunteers renovate or construct buildings or other accessible projects in addition to completing much needed wish list projects. Grant recipients are responsible for securing lodging and meals for the volunteers. Ability Camp grants do not exceed \$7,500 and must be at least 50% matched with in-kind or matching gifts. The entire amount of the grant must go toward the purchasing of materials for the Ability Camp projects.

### CONTACT

THE ABILITY EXPERIENCE

ABILITYEXP@ABILITYEXPERIENCE.ORG

Tel: 704.504.2400

P.O. Box 241368

Charlotte, NC 28224

## Types of projects The Ability Experience would like to do:

- Projects which promote service oriented volunteerism.
- Projects which directly address the needs of people with disabilities.
- Projects which generate public awareness and offer opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Projects which develop leadership skills.
- Projects that offer interaction between volunteers and people with disabilities.

## Projects The Ability Experience can, but are not limited to, build at your camp site:

- Accessible ramps at cabins
- Remolding and renovation of inaccessible cabins
- An accessible community playground
- Accessible amphitheater and stage
- A two slip boat dock
- An accessible fishing pier
- An accessible climbing tower
- A gazebo
- A petting zoo / animal stable area
- Roofing cabins & shelters
- Boardwalks: water front & wooded
- High & low ropes courses
- Playground shelters
- Garden houses / accessible gardens
- Concrete patios & sidewalks
- Sensory rooms or gardens

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Because The Ability Experience and Pi Kappa Phi are dedicated to leadership, service and making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities, it is the policy of The Ability Experience that all awarded grants go to organizations that include all of the exemplary ideals and opportunities stated to the left.

The Ability Experience awards funds to tax-exempt, charitable organizations serving people with disabilities. These include camps, schools, day care centers, residential facilities, recreation centers and communities. The Ability Experience also grants funds to volunteer groups or programs whose aim is to serve individuals with disabilities.

The Ability Experience awards grants to organizations which have developed a relationship with Pi Kappa Phi and/or The Ability Experience and whose mission is to serve people with disabilities. In addition, The Ability Experience expects the grant recipient to maintain a continued relationship both locally and nationally through annual updates regarding the funded project or program.

A funded organization may reapply the following year. The organization must reapply under the same set of criteria and under the same grant application process. Organizations who are denied grant funding may also reapply the following year.

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT GRANT INFORMATION

The Ability Experience's goal with events is to provide much needed additions to camps that serve people with disabilities, and to provide Pi Kappa Phi members a positive fraternal experience through service and leadership. We have learned that future involvement from our members is directly related to a positive service experience at one of our many events.

The Ability Experience awards grants up to \$5,000 for Ability Weekends and \$7,500 for Ability Camps. In addition to the funds that we award, we also provide labor. You will see that 30–60 volunteers for a week or weekend almost doubles the grant total just because of labor. The Ability Experience's grant dollars can also be maximized if they are used as local community start up funds to be matched by civic clubs or community organizations and retailers.

The Ability Experience's grants can more than double with a little bit of work from the recipient.

The following is a list of several related topics that will help with your grant application and proposal as well as what is expected from the host facility/camp:

**Complete Application** All proposal items fulfilled, and budget items submitted.

**Matching Fund Plan** A plan in place to show how our funds will be matched by at least 50%. Some camps use meals and lodging towards their matched funds, while others use our funds as base funds to look for other matching grants in the community. Many camps are able to turn our \$5,000 grant into \$10,000–\$15,000 of just material (not even including the labor that we provide).

**Project List** A list submitted on the enclosed application, including number of volunteers needed for each project, costs associated with each project, and anticipated amount of time to complete each project. Please also include photos of the work sites if possible.

**Skilled Supervisor** A contractor, carpenter, engineer, supervisor (etc.) for each project. This person(s) will be responsible for designing the project, preparing the site prior to the arrival of our volunteers, and ordering material to complete the projects to arrive at camp before our volunteers. Work time for Ability Weekend volunteers is from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m.–12 p.m. on Sunday. Ability Camp is Sunday (half day) through Wednesday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and Thursday from 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Lodging Accommodations** Ability Weekend accommodations are Friday and Saturday evening for the agreed amount of volunteers for the project. Ability Camps are from Saturday night through Wednesday night. Numbers are dependent on the amount of workers needed.

**Meal Accommodations** Ability Weekend meals are Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Ability Camps are Saturday evening, usually sandwiches. Breakfast, lunch and dinner Sunday–Wednesday and breakfast and lunch on Thursday. There needs to be enough to accommodate all of the men working (Remember: these are college-aged men who are working all day). Evening snacks are greatly appreciated. The following is a list of preferences that make our projects run smoothly and give our volunteers the most positive experience at a construction project.

**Evening Meeting Space** Ability Weekends need a meeting space for Friday night's orientation and Saturday's programming. Ability Camps need a meeting space for Saturday night's orientation and a meeting space for various nights during the week. We ask that you join us for orientation to share the history of your organization and projects we will be constructing.

**Respite Programming/Friendship Visit Requirement** Our volunteers would like to interact with campers/clients throughout the event. Evening carnivals/dances and integrated meals are perfect examples of activities.

**Evening Recreation Opportunities** Please provide an opportunity and access to evening recreation (basketball, tennis, swimming, fishing, billiards, board games, etc.) if possible.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Do I need to have a volunteer relationship with a Pi Kappa Phi chapter in order to receive a project grant?***

No, we do offer “partnership grants” if a Pi Kappa Phi chapter volunteers their time locally with an organization that serves people with disabilities. Often, members of Pi Kappa Phi let us know of an organization that can use our assistance.

***Can the matching funds be in-kind?***

Yes, but only to a small degree. When evaluating the grant proposal, the director of special events will take in-kind donations as a factor. However, the project will be larger and will be able to accommodate more people if the recipient raises the necessary money.

***What happens if you finish the projects early?***

There needs to be a list of projects listed by priority. Please come up with a list of smaller side projects. These are often maintenance and landscaping types of work. We want to maximize our time at your organization. We have a history of finishing our major projects early. These men will surprise you on their speed and quality of work completed. Please have smaller side projects ready for them. It is important that you have alternative work projects ready.

***How many people come to these projects?***

That depends on the need of the organization. We can recruit as many people as necessary to complete the project. Please indicate how many volunteers you will need to work the entire time.  
*40–50 for an Ability Week, 50–70 for an Ability Camp*

***Can we make separate programming to include our clients or respite campers?***

Absolutely, we would love the opportunity to interact with the people we are directly helping. This is often the favorite experience for the undergraduates.

***Does The Ability Experience supply tools?***

The Ability Experience has a limited amount of tools which cannot be brought by plane. Unless we are driving to the event, we will not be able to provide any tools. Although many students may bring tools, please do not count on it.

***Who orders the materials?***

Your organization does all of the planning and ordering for the project. The Ability Experience provides financial assistance and labor.

***Would you provide a project grant for maintenance or landscaping type work?***

No, but those would be excellent ideas for a side project. Major amenities and/or construction type activities are what The Ability Experience prefers.

## APPLICATION

The following items must be filled out for a construction project grant. We do not stress lengthy applications.

### 1. Application form

The application form (found on next page) must be completed in its entirety. All information is necessary.

### 2. Proposal

In addition to the application form, a proposal also must be submitted giving more detailed description of the grant.

**Please include the following subheadings:**

- a. An explanation of the need for the grant.
- b. A description of the population to be served, including the number of people.
- c. An explanation of how the grant will meet the need.
- d. A description of the intended results.
- e. A plan to show how the funds will be matched if applicable
- f. A description of all previous relationships and activities with The Ability Experience and Pi Kappa Phi (if any).
- g. A plan for sustaining activities with The Ability Experience/ Pi Kappa Phi on a local or national level.
- h. A brief statement on the organization's history (i.e. brochures/pamphlets).
- i. Pictures of the work site area(s).

### 3. Budget

Please include the following budgetary information. This is necessary for our records.

- a. Submit a one page, line-item budget (include both anticipated income and expenditures) for the organization's fiscal year for which funds are being requested.
- b. Submit a one page grant budget for the specific grant.

### 4. Verification of tax-exempt status (unless individual).

### 5. A copy of the last audited financial statements.

**6. All materials must be purchased two weeks prior to the event and copies of original material receipts must be sent (via mail, e-mail or fax) to the director of special events one week prior to the event.**

### Correspondence

It is important that The Ability Experience can receive correspondence from the camp at various times following the project. There should be follow-up every 3-6 months with the following information:

- *Pictures of the project in use with campers/ clients of the organization*
- *Copies of any dedication type materials (plaques)*
- *Stories or personal accounts of how The Ability Experience helped an individual*
- *News and media clippings/video*

This will help continue our projects on a larger scale.

### Application Deadlines (Approx.)

Check with the Director of Special Events for final deadlines

Fall projects deadline (Ability Weekend only)  
*June 1 of the same year.*

Spring projects deadline (Ability Camp or Ability Weekend)  
*December 1 of the previous year.*

### Please mail or e-mail the completed application to:

THE ABILITY EXPERIENCE  
Attn: Director of Program Development  
P.O. Box 241368  
Charlotte, NC 28224

980.318.5387

ABILITYEXP@ABILITYEXPERIENCE.ORG

## APPLICATION

### Ability Weekend/Camp

- ABILITY WEEKEND (FALL OR SPRING)
- ABILITY CAMP (MARCH)

### Grant Applicant

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

MAIN CONTACT

TITLE

SECONDARY CONTACT

TITLE

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE FAX

E-MAIL (IF APPLICABLE):

### Project

PROJECT TITLE/DESCRIPTION

SUPERVISOR OF PROJECT/ TITLE

LOCATION/ADDRESS OF PROJECT

LOCATION/ADDRESS OF LODGING

POSSIBLE DATES FOR EVENT (LIST AT LEAST TWO)

How much would the project cost without the help of The Ability Experience?

What are the savings to the camp if the project is granted?  
Number of men x hours worked x hourly dollar amount.

How many undergraduates will be needed (Minimum 35)?

Will there be an opportunity for our volunteers to interact with campers/clients?

Make the grant check out to?

### Potential Funding

What funds from other sources (foundations, corporations, government, earned income, endowment, memberships, special fundraising activities, etc.) have been received or are under consideration for this project? Please indicate whether the funds have been received or confirmed, or are under consideration.

- CONFIRMED
- RECEIVED
- UNDER CONSIDERATION

- CONFIRMED
- RECEIVED
- UNDER CONSIDERATION

### Future Funding

If the project is to be continued beyond one year, do you intend to return to The Ability Experience for funding in future years?

- YES
- NO

If yes, for approximately how many years?

### Long-Range Plans

Do you have a long-range plan over the next three to five years which will enable you to operate this project without The Ability Experience funding?

- YES
- NO

If yes, approximately what year?

What are the plans for long-range funding over the next three to five years?

### In-Kind Amounts

Please list the in-kind amounts of how much it will cost the camp to provide lodging and meals to the volunteers and any other expenses to have this project.