Minnesota Quidditch (#2586)

22 January 2014

Student Services Fee Request for 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

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Address

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Phone Fax Email

“We acknowledge that the Fees Committee does not award actual dollars, but rather a penny fee that earns dollars based upon student enrollment levels. Any differences between anticipated and actual income resulting from changes in enrollment are the responsibility of the student organization, not of the Fees Committee.”

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Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit?  Yes X No
If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c)(3) status.
EIN: 45-4450558
SEE DOCUMENT ATTACHED IN EMAIL

Funds are being requested for (check all that apply):

General Operating Support:  X
Project / Program Support:  X
Start-Up Costs:  Capital:
Technical Assistance:  Other (List):

Budget

Dollar Amount Requested $ 24,550
Total Annual Organization Budget $ 49,350
Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $ 35,000
Important Note: All Student Services Fee applications will be evaluated using the Guidelines for Decision-Making found on pages 20-21 of the Student Services Fee Handbook. It is critical for your application to address these guidelines in your written application. Please reference/describe how your organization meets particular/applicable guidelines in Section 1, Section 3 and/or Section 5 of the written portion of your application and in your program breakdown included in the SSF budget worksheet.

Section 1: Narrative
Please use the following guidelines to provide a description of your organization:

- Brief summary of organization history, including date of establishment
  - Minnesota Quidditch was founded in August of 2010. The organization began solely as a league of students who met weekly to play quidditch. Since then, the league has repeated the tradition of a five-week season during both Fall and Spring semesters. Students involved in Minnesota Quidditch have volunteered to promote education and health to the youth of Minneapolis for the past three and a half years. The organization also involves a traveling team that competes at the university level across the nation, representing the largest quidditch league in the nation for four consecutive years at the Quidditch World Cup. Recently, Minnesota Quidditch has become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

- Organization mission / vision statements, inclusive of organizational goals
  - The specific purpose and mission of Minnesota Quidditch is both educational and charitable. We strive to educate local Minneapolis youth about the competitive yet light-hearted gameplay of Muggle Quidditch as outlined by the International Quidditch Association, including knowledge of the rules, technical skills about play, teamwork, and overall enjoyment of the game. Through this, we hope to teach and instill the values of sportsmanship, individual development, and scholastic achievement. When it comes to charity, Minnesota Quidditch hopes to foster a sense of community, bolster community pride through outreach programs associated with the sport and through literacy initiatives, and combat juvenile delinquency. We also promote the participation in the sport of Muggle Quidditch on campus through events, leagues, and other activities.

- Describe your organization’s relationship with organizations of like mission
  - Minnesota Quidditch maintains relationships with many other organizations with similar goals. Most notably, the organization is registered with the International Quidditch Association, which regulates quidditch teams, rules, and tournaments. Through this Association, Minnesota Quidditch is able to keep in contact with quidditch teams in the Midwest and across the country.
  - Additionally, Minnesota Quidditch has collaborated with after school youth programs at Windom Park Recreation Center and with the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) organization. Specifically for BBBS, we attended a summer event at Fort Snelling State Park and a winter event hosted at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in 2012 and 2013. The Minnesota Daily and Pioneer Press have also helped Minnesota Quidditch spread the word about our mission and events on campus.
  - Minnesota Quidditch interacts with various other University of Minnesota student groups. This past December, we invited MinnProv (#2513), the University’s Ballroom Dance Club (#391) and the Minnesota Kpop Dance Crew (#3228) to perform at our annual Yule Ball event. Collaborating with the Ballroom Dance Club and the Kpop Dance Crew helped us continue to promote the importance of active lifestyles at the event. Our partnership with MinnProv is based off of our mutual appreciation for creativity and uniqueness, as both of our groups are host to many students who think outside the box. Their acts fostered a sense of community through jokes and skits that everyone in
• Illustrate the need for your organization within the university community, inclusive of how your organization meets this need
  o Minnesota Quidditch, as of Fall 2013, is a 250-person organization with members attending games weekly. The games that Minnesota Quidditch organizes and plays every week are an opportunity for students to be active, competitive, and also friendly. The community within the quidditch league allows for new friendships and connections between students while participating in a healthy activity. Aside from the physical aspect of Minnesota Quidditch, the organization hosts a Yule Ball every December which has attracted over 500 students each year since it began, winning a Tony Diggs award for best on-campus event in the first year.
  o Minnesota Quidditch is host to a large number of university students from all colleges within the university, and from both undergraduate and graduate programs. Being a part of the league and having the opportunity to be on the traveling team gives the University students participating in our intramurals something to work for. Currently, the traveling team has students from six of the seven major undergraduate colleges here at the University. Minnesota Quidditch is an avenue for students to meet new friends they might not have met otherwise.
  o The Minnesota Quidditch traveling team has brought attention to the University of Minnesota due to its success at national competitions. Along with the attention, the traveling team has built a good reputation for the University for being a competitive, yet friendly and respectful team.

• Detail the student benefit derived from your organization, whether or not students utilize services
  o Minnesota Quidditch does well for the students who take part in our organization’s events, though we recognize that not everyone can. However, our organization can and does benefit students that do and do not participate. For those who know about Muggle Quidditch, Minnesota Quidditch is recognized nationally for the size of the on-campus league and for being one of the most competitive travelling teams in the nation. The quidditch league at the U of M is a great special interest topic for campus tours for high school seniors, as well.

• Describe student involvement within your organization
  o Student involvement is key to Minnesota Quidditch. Consistently since September 2010, Minnesota Quidditch has had over 100 members participate every semester. These organization members meet weekly to compete in quidditch games. The top four teams play in a final tournament, which the majority of the league attends to cheer the remaining teams on. Apart from league, Minnesota Quidditch has a try-out team comprised of league members that represents the University in regional and national tournaments. All members of the quidditch league have the opportunity to volunteer for charitable events with the youth of Minneapolis, like “Kidditch” days at Windom Park, or events through Big Brother Big Sister.

Section 2: Organizational Chart
• Provide a block diagram that supplements the narrative section and details more clearly the structure of the student group. The organizational chart should provide a clear picture of the reporting structure, student involvement and programmatic areas.
  o Minnesota Quidditch has a board of elected officers that organize and run the student group. First and foremost, there is a president with whom all other officers confer with during meetings
regarding the organization. The president during the 2013-2014 school year is Taylor Zastrow. The elected executive positions in Minnesota Quidditch are Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer whose positions in 2013-2014 are held by Cody Narveson, Tim Ohlert, and Jared Sipe, respectively. The executive board members work closely with the president to lead the group through its various opportunities. The board members who do not hold executive positions are Public Relations Chair, Event Coordinator, and Design Chair, which are held by Kayla Millard, Carly Eichten, and Leah Vogel, respectively. These board members participate in weekly board meetings to discuss organization policies and plans. The board members are allowed to appoint officers who are not a part of the elected board. These appointed officers report to the board of officers. Non-officers in the organization consist of members of the Intramural League, Competition Team, and volunteers. These organization members report to any and all officers for questions and concerns.

As mentioned previously, Minnesota Quidditch also works closely with other organizations and student groups. Minnesota Quidditch volunteers have taught “kidditch” at various Big Brother Big Sisters events and at after school programs for youth at Windom Park. We also collaborate with other student groups here at the University for the Yule Ball event we have. This past year we had very successful performances from MinnProv (#2513), the University's Ballroom Dance Club (#391) and the Minnesota Kpop Dance Crew (#3228).
Section 3: Performance Report

- Use quantitative measures to indicate the degree of use and participation of services and programs within the student group. Figures should be used to demonstrate the impact the student group has on campus life and the collegiate experience. Consider the following details:

  o In the Fall of 2013, Minnesota Quidditch saw its participation levels increased to 223 participants each week, a high for the program and for any other quidditch program in the world.
  o The increase in student participants also benefited the traveling team; 52 students took part in the tryouts for twenty-one roster spots and the practice team.
  o The Fall of 2013 semester also brought about volunteer opportunities at various venues. We began the semester by attending the birthday party of a child who was recently released from the University of Minnesota Amplatz Hospital, and leading quidditch games with the children attendees. Minnesota Quidditch teamed up with Windom Park on Halloween to participate in an evening of reading Harry Potter and playing the beloved sport from the books for dozens elementary-aged children. Later, the student organization was able to showcase itself a second time at the Metrodome after being graciously invited by Big Brothers Big Sisters to their holiday party, at which members of the league personally instructed over a hundred participants.
  o On December 6th, Minnesota Quidditch hosted its Third Annual Yule Ball at the DQ Club Room in TCF Bank Stadium. Over 500 tickets were sold for the event, which included a live DJ, a costume contest, an improv performance by MinnProv (#2513), a dancing exhibition by the University’s Ballroom Dance Club (#391) and Minnesota Kpop Dance Crew (#3228), and refreshments.
  o With 1,044 likes as of January 20, 2014, the "Minnesota Quidditch" Facebook page has the most fans of any other quidditch program’s page in the Midwest.

Section 4: Reserve Accounts

- Any student group reserve accounts must be listed and described.

  o Minnesota Quidditch does not have any reserve accounts. The only bank account our group has is our primary account, which is used to maintain our financial records and transactions. It is a “Free Community Group Checking Account” at TCF Bank.

Section 5: Fees Request

- State the total amount of your student services fees request. Indicate whether this amount is a decrease from last year, an increase from last year, or if this is a first-time request. The Fees Committee will be particularly interested in the reasoning behind a fee increase.

  ● This year Minnesota Quidditch is requesting $24,550. This is an increase from the amount that was requested last year, which was $16,000.
  ● We are requesting more SSF funds for several reasons. A large goal for Minnesota Quidditch is to lower, if not eliminate, the current registration fee to play intramural quidditch. We believe that the registration fee is restricting the number of students that play, but the cost of the game equipment (brooms, game balls, hoops, snitch gear, cones, ref equipment, and team t-shirts) and the rapidly expanding nature of the program requires Minnesota Quidditch to charge a registration fee. Additionally, much of the current equipment needs to be replaced since it is breaking. We wish to buy new equipment to protect the safety of the players as our old sets of
hoops have been breaking and falling on people, and the snapping of old broom handles exposes sharp edges that could hurt the players. Finally, we are requesting additional funds to help pay for the cost of storing gameplay equipment. Since the program is expanding, we have and will continue to acquire more equipment than what volunteering individuals can transport and store.

- Please provide additional detail if you are requesting one-time, special or a significant funding increase as part of your SSF request. Include plausible/realistic plans, evidence that the applicant has thought through the facility, security, permitting and/or other requirements for putting on significant events, and demonstrate an understanding of the true full cost of the events or other applicant requests (where one-time, special or significant funding increases are included in the SSF application). The SSF Advisor is available to consult with applicants who wish to request one-time, special or significant funding increases.
  - We are requesting more funds in order to purchase new equipment that is more safe and enduring than the current equipment we use. This equipment will not need to be replaced for a few years.

- For groups requesting more than $15,000 in annual SSF support, indicate if your organization will be either 0%, 50% or 100% operational in the summer of 2014.
  - Our group is 0% active during the summer. Games and tournaments occur during the academic year, and during the summer no students are around to compete. Our group also helps out with local schools, but those are also only active during the academic school year.

Section 6: External Funding

- Describe your organization’s efforts to secure funding in addition to Student Services Fee income.
  - One of the main ways Minnesota Quidditch raises funds is by charging a registration fee for the intramural league. This fee is something we are trying to eliminate in order to encourage the greatest number of students to play as possible. Additionally, Minnesota Quidditch hosts an annual Yule Ball where we charge money for tickets as a fundraiser. Yule Ball has been very successful over the years and has brought in a great deal of revenue for Minnesota Quidditch. Another form of fundraising we do involves the selling of Minnesota Quidditch t-shirts and other merchandise such as quidditch-themed buttons. Finally, we will be working in concession stands at Gopher Sporting events in Mariucci Arena, William’s Arena, the Sports Pavilion, and TCF Bank Stadium.

- Describe your organization’s financial need for Student Services Fee support that cannot be fulfilled with alternative sources of income.
  - In order to reach out to the maximum number of students on campus, we seek to keep the cost of participation in our organization at a reasonable amount for full time students to commit. Although we could attempt to raise more money in our ticket sales and registration fees, this would only prevent students from participating in the activities we seek to offer. Coupling SSF aid with our own fundraising, we can get closer to achieving the utmost student participation and activity.

- State the percentage of your budget that comes from Student Services Fee income and any other sources of revenue.
  - SSF - 22%
  - Yule ball, semester registration fees, merchandise sales, etc. - 78%