Would you like to take a journey that will inspire you and others to think differently about our oceans and seas? From diving in the Marshall Islands to exploring the Arctic, the annual David Henderson Inspiring Journey Grant aims to inspire public interest in the oceans and seas and to explore how we can ensure the human activity affecting them is conducted safely and sustainably.

For centuries, people have been inspired by tales of the sea – this is an opportunity to write your own tale...

DESCRIPTION
Every two years the IMarEST will support the best idea for an original, exciting, and exceptional journey. It is important that the project takes you somewhere fresh, different and original. Your journey needs really to matter to you, but also needs to be one that leads you to tell a story in a way that will inspire people to think about the oceans and seas, and perhaps think differently about the sea and how it is used. You will need to be able to tell the story of your journey via blog, vlog or written journal as well as through social media channels and in a final, well-articulated report.

In Memory of David Henderson
This grant has been established in memory of David Henderson. David Henderson worked for the IMarEST from 2008 until his untimely death in 2016 at the age of 31. David made an immeasurably positive impact on the lives of his colleagues and the Institute’s volunteers and members with whom he worked very closely and tirelessly to support. He worked diligently to support the IMarEST’s professional development activities and the work of the Membership Committee, Professional Affairs and Education Committee (PAEC) and Individual Case Procedures (ICP) Board.

This grant is in memory of David’s spirit as an adventurer with a boundless passion for exploring other places – taking trips overseas, trekking across countries and taking part in all manner of sports and outdoor pursuits. This grant honours his desire for discovering the new as well as espousing the preservation of the oceans, something he worked very hard to protect through his role at the Institute.

ELIGIBILITY
- Applicants must be over 18 years of age.
- Applicants must be an IMarEST member at the time of interview
- Those currently employed by the IMarEST and their close relatives are not eligible to apply
- Applicants must be in a position to attend an interview via Skype at a mutually agreed time.
- Applications from small teams as well as solo travellers are accepted, but please make this clear in your application.
- The grant should be for independent travel. We will NOT consider any journey joining a commercial expedition or pre-paid tour, including organised charity fundraising tours. However we may consider the grant as an additional source of funding for an existing project.
• The grant consists of: £2,500 (GBP) for the journey. There is no cash alternative and it is not transferable.
• The winner will be selected based on:
  - Originality and description of the journey in the written application
  - Level of research about the destination and the logistics regarding the journey
  - Potential interest to the IMarEST and the wider public
  - Presentation of the vision for your journey and your enthusiasm at the interview
  - Demonstration of personal safety case and risk assessment
• The IMarEST decision as to the recipient is final. No correspondence relating to the final selection will be entered into.
• The IMarEST reserve the right to make multiple awards and no award.
• The IMarEST retain the right to cancel or to adapt the competition at any time if changed circumstances beyond their control call for such action. The IMarEST reserve the right to disqualify any contestants who breach these rules or commit fraud. The IMarEST also reserve the right to cancel the grant at any stage, if deemed necessary in their opinion, or if circumstances arise outside their control. The personal information you provide will be processed by the IMarEST only for the purposes of administering the award. Your personal information will not be passed to any other third party or published without your permission.

DEADLINES
Deadline for initial proposal: 31 August
Shortlist announced: 15 October
Deadline for detailed proposal: 16 November
Interviews to take place: 3-14 December
Winner announced: 31 January
Journey to be completed by: 31 December

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted by email to awards@imarest.org. Deadlines will be strictly enforced.

1. Initial Proposal
Submit a pitch of your idea– the primary reason that makes this journey so inspiring for you and for others. Your pitch should be no longer than 500 words. Please also provide your name and contact details and the headline title of your journey. Your 500 words could include details on: Why is this such an inspiring journey? Why is this of interest to the IMarEST and to the wider public? How will you achieve the journey? What will you get out of it? Why you and not somebody else?
Please remember to keep this brief. At this stage we are not looking for detailed route plans and budgets. From the initial proposals, up to ten projects will be shortlisted by a panel of judges. Those selected will be asked to prepare a detailed proposal.

2. Detailed Proposal
Applications must contain the following information:
  • Title and short abstract (max 100 words)
  • Full contact details
  • A description of your journey. This might include your motivation for the journey, a description of the aspects of the journey that make it inspiring, your aspirations following the journey and your previous travel experience (max 1000 words)
  • A breakdown of the budget for the different aspects of the journey
  • An outline timetable for the journey.
  • A risk assessment and safety management plan

From the detailed proposals, up to 5 projects will be shortlisted by a panel of judges. Those selected will be invited to an interview.
3. Interviews
Interviews will be held via Skype (or an alternative) and you should be prepared to do a short (10 minute) PowerPoint presentation covering your application.

Conditions

- You will be required to provide a weekly blog, vlog or written journal during the planning for and undertaking of the journey. A full final report must be submitted electronically a maximum of 3 months following the completion of the journey. The final report must include a 250 word abstract, a description of the journey and its key findings (1000 words minimum, 4000 words maximum), up to 10 digital images that capture the spirit of the journey, a final budget, and details of presentations, publications and any other outputs.
- You will then be expected to work with the IMarEST marketing team and graphic designer to turn your report into something spectacular!
- You will also be expected to share a minimum of three social media posts per week (assuming internet access is available) across platforms of your choice, documenting what you are getting up to in real-time e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat.
- You will also be asked to present a talk on the journey, to be live-streamed and recorded, at a mutually convenient date.
- The IMarEST’s support should be acknowledged in all publications and outputs and copies of any such publications and outputs should be submitted to the IMarEST.
- Award details may be published in the Institute’s publications and on the website.
- Copyright in all text, images, film, audio and other outputs resulting from the award is to be held jointly by the recipient and the IMarEST.