

# The Missoula Rotary Foundation

## Grant Application

### **Statement of Purpose:**

The Missoula Rotary Foundation (MFR) receives grant applications from Rotary Clubs in the Missoula area and its surrounding cities to help clubs fund community programs and projects that meet the foundation's charitable 501(c)(3) purposes as set out in its enabling documents.

### **Description of Project:**

Missoula Fencing Association  
1134 Longstaff St.  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 304-2869  
[info@missoulafencing.net](mailto:info@missoulafencing.net)

Olympic Fencing, often referred to as “physical chess”, is a sport that helps both youth and adults develop mental awareness, creativity, problem solving, accountability, self-reliance, emotional self-control, confidence, critical thinking, academic discipline, and a sense of community. In short, fencing teaches lessons and skills that go beyond the bout strip, skills that are crucial in today's world.

Missoula Fencing Association was established in the fall of 2007 as “Missoula Youth Fencing Association” by Laura Lee. Laura's two sons had shown an interest in fencing a couple of years earlier and pursuing this interest quickly brought about the realization that fencing in Montana typically means posts, poles, and barbed wire. Using the University of Montana Fencing Club as a resource, Laura was able to find an instructor for her two sons. It was not long before word got around that some young people in Missoula were playing with swords, with their parents' permission! Subsequently, the Missoula Youth Fencing Association (MYFA) was born.

In the fall of 2010, MYFA established a home in the City Life Community Center and switched to a club structure with monthly memberships. At that time, we also expanded our mission to include programming for all ages and changed our name to Missoula Fencing Association, Inc. In 2019, MFA became a Montana non-profit corporation and was deemed by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt charitable organization (501(c)(3)). The nonprofit is run by a Board of Directors comprised of adult fencers and parents of youth fencers.

One of MFA's goals is to keep is to make fencing accessible and affordable to the Missoula community. To achieve this goal, the club relies on fundraising events and donations used towards buying new equipment, providing student scholarships, and training for our coaches.

Each year, MFA holds an annual fall fundraising event called the Stab A Leaf rake-a-thon. The rake-a-thon is a way for MFA to raise money for our organization while doing a service for our community. Fencers gather pledges from individuals and businesses to sponsor them for raking the lawns of elderly and disabled Missoulians. This program offers a benefit to everyone involved: donors get a tax write-off that is 100% deductible; people who are unable to rake their lawns get their leaves picked up at no cost; MFA raises money to purchase club equipment and provide scholarships; and more people are able to fence with financial assistance. This year, on November 6, our athletes and parents spent their Saturday raking leaves from several lawns around Missoula from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and, so far, have been able to raise \$3,500 from individuals and businesses. Our goal this year is to raise \$8,000; however, we are still receiving donations and hope to reach that goal by the end of this month.

While MFA is not asking for a specific amount from the Missoula Rotary Foundation, we do ask that you help make a difference in Missoula by contributing to the success of our youth. Your support will be acknowledged in our events and community advertisement. Should you have any further questions about our organization and our work, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for considering this opportunity.



Ramon Mercado  
Member Centennial Rotary Club of Missoula

(406) 218-1400  
[mercado.ramon@gmail.com](mailto:mercado.ramon@gmail.com)

Amount of Funding Requested: \$750 or more to be matched two to one by other sources within the Club or Association

Date on Which Grant Funding Required: Year end 2021

Name of Club Requesting Grant: Centennial Rotary Club of Missoula

Name of Club Contact: Ramon Mercado on behalf of the Board

Address of Club Contact:

E-mail Address of Club Contact: Mercado.Ramon@gmail.com

Best Phone Number of Club Contact: (406) 218-1400

# The Missoula Rotary Foundation Grant Acceptance Certificate:

The above grant request has been approved by action of the Missoula Rotary Foundation (MRF) Grants Committee under authority granted it by the Foundation's Board of Directors in the amount and with the conditions and limitations set forth below:

**Amount:** \$750.00

## Conditions and Limitations:

This grant will be awarded to the Missoula Fencing Association upon submission of proof that the Association has received donations in an amount of \$1,500.00 from other sources and upon the condition that the funds hereby granted be used exclusively to make Association activities available to youth in Missoula that would, for financial reasons, not be able to participate.

By acceptance of the funds hereby granted the Grantee hereby agrees to provide the Missoula Rotary Foundation a complete accounting of the use and disbursement of the funds hereby granted within ninety (90) days of the end of the Rotary Year (June 30 of each year) for each year in which the grant anticipates utilizing such funds. A final report shall be sent to the foundation within ninety (90) of the final use of the grant funds.

Dated December December,12, 2021

*Robert W. Minto, Jr*

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MRF Grants Committee Chair: