

INTERNATIONAL PORTER PROTECTION GROUP



BECOMING AN IPPG REP

Thank you for your interest in being a country representative for IPPG, a very effective group that works for the interests of porters internationally. Here are some notes on being an IPPG rep.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A REP

- Preferably having had some experience of trekking and working with porters
- Accepting to work within IPPG guidelines and philosophy
- IPPG is apolitical
- No religious proselytizing

THE ROLE AS AN IPPG REP ENTAILS:

Being a contact person

You may be contacted by travel agencies, individuals, etc. This means replying to emails, letters, sending letters of thanks to donors (with receipts). It also means liaising with other reps in your country, if there are any. (If there is more than one rep as in the one country, one rep will be the 'country coordinator') Quite often the media wants to contact someone on porter issues.

Possible avenues for raising awareness on the porter issue

Contacting adventure travel companies, government departments, national mountaineering clubs and bodies, individuals that have some connection with porters in the work they do. This can be done by letter writing, distributing pamphlets (IPPG has a couple available as a doc file), etc. Publicity for IPPG can also be made at venues such as travel shows, exhibitions, outdoor equipment shops, etc. We have found in the past that it is often possible to get a free stall for charities like IPPG.

Keeping a log book

Keeping an account of donations and expenses is important as these are published annually on the website. Keep brief notes of what you have been up to (donations, fundraisers, letter writing, etc. and your mailing list and email list).

Fundraisers and donations

Money is always needed somewhere or other in the different projects that IPPG endorses or runs on its own account, such as the porter rescue facility at Machermo. It is worth exploring what can be done so that donations can be tax-deductible in your country. In general, setting up as a charity is rather complex and not really worth for what IPPG is. On the other hand, one way to go about it is to find a 'friendly' registered charity, and ask them to tag along. That's what has been done in Australia and it works really well.

Each rep should try to fund their activities (eg stamps, envelopes, stationary, phone calls, etc.) from the donations they get and the fundraisers they do.

However, money is often moved around to get particular projects moving.

How much you do is entirely up to you. Some reps do an amazing amount of work in the areas set out below, others the bare minimum. Most are somewhere in between, at times very active, at other times busy with their own life. Any of these approaches is fine. The minimum requirement is to be a contact for any IPPG inquiry in your country and to reply to inquiries, and to send your accounts at the end of each year (if there has been money received or spent).

We encourage every rep to enlist people to help them.

Who's in charge?

Each IPPG rep is autonomous. However, we need to remember to let each other know what is going on by sending Rejane and Jim reports of activities, which they will forward as necessary to the other reps or post on the IPPG website.

Major decisions within IPPG are made by discussion and we try to achieve a consensus.

IPPG reserves the right to terminate a rep's appointment.

OTHER POINTS

I trust that you have read about IPPG on our website www.ippg.net

As you may know, IPPG doesn't deal with the wage and weight issue at the moment. We're just fighting for basic decent treatment of porters by the companies and trekkers who employ them.

It is obvious and important that IPPG's name should not be used in anyway that could be detrimental to its ideals, or in any profitable way that would promote the rep's own interests financial or otherwise.

Being an IPPG rep is a voluntary work, and there are no remuneration whatsoever for IPPG representatives.

Questions? Contact Jim Duff, International Coordinator, jim@ippg.net