

How to Go On a TIGHAR Expedition

Except when we need to hire special expertise and equipment, such as for deep water exploration, TIGHAR expeditions are staffed by volunteers. The expedition teams are limited in size (usually fewer than 20 people total) and necessarily include a number of experienced TIGHAR staff, but we always leave room for new volunteers.

There are two categories of expedition volunteers:

- Designated Team Member
- Sponsor Team Member

Designated Team Members do not pay their own way and are selected without regard for their ability to make financial contributions to the project. TIGHAR covers all expenses from the point of embarkation (usually Los Angeles) to return. Designated Team Members are selected by the Expedition Leader from among TIGHAR members who are at least 18 years of age and have completed TIGHAR's Aviation Archaeology Field School (see enclosed flyer). The Field School not only provides a basic familiarity with the principles and practices of aviation archaeology but also gives expedition applicants and TIGHAR staff an opportunity to get to know each other in a field operations setting.

Designated Team Members are not necessarily selected for their expertise in a particular field. The most valuable traits in expedition work are intelligence, stamina, and the ability to maintain a positive team spirit under stress.

Sponsor Team Members make a substantial financial contribution to the project in return for a place on the expedition team. In the past, individual donations have ranged from \$50,000 to \$1 million dollars. Sponsor Team Members are an essential part of funding the expeditions but applicants must be approved before their contribution is accepted. Sponsor Team Member applicants are urged, but not required, to complete the Field School.

Once the expedition embarks, no distinction is made between Designated and Sponsor Team Members.

Questions about participating in TIGHAR expeditions should be addressed to:

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