



CHARTE DU PIOLET D'OR

The spirit of the Piolet d'Or

The mission of the Piolet d'Or is to present the year's great first climbs to the largest public possible. Its objective is to glorify the need for adventure and the sense of exploration and to pay tribute to the art of climbing and to the world's most beautiful summits. It is a celebration of great mountaineering.

The spirit of the Piolet d'Or draws its inspiration from the rich history of mountaineering, which is all about going where no one has gone before, without forgetting the teachings of the great mountaineers of the past, and facing risk to better appreciate the value of life. It is a public celebration of the roped party, of a spirit of camaraderie and solidarity, highlighting the beauty of individual and collective achievements. It involves the whole mountaineering community.

In modern mountaineering, the question of the means primes over that of the objective. Mountaineering is no longer a question of achieving success at any cost using artificial means (oxygen bottles, fixed ropes, porters etc.). It's all about imagining new itineraries, of making great climbs with very little hardware and of learning something along the way. It is a question of wisdom and daring, of conviction and courage.

Performance evaluation criteria

The climbs of the year will be evaluated in terms of elegance of style, taking the alpine style as a reference and taking into account the characteristics of each mountain. There will be no national preference. Each climb will be evaluated using the same criteria - individual evaluations will be followed by a collective evaluation.

- The spirit of exploration: originality of the itinerary and/or of the summit, creativity, innovation
- Commitment and autonomy
- High technical level
- Intelligence of the itinerary, taking into account the objective dangers.
- Economy of means.
- Respect for the communities.
- Respect for the environment.
- Respect for future generations of mountaineers, making sure they can relive the same adventures in the same conditions.

Selection of the climbs of the year

The mission of the international jury is to ascertain the value of the climbs of the year by highlighting the strength and the contribution of each one of them within the diversity of modern mountaineering. In December, the international jury will designate the climbs which are going to take part in the Piolet d'Or ceremony. This preselection should be arrived at by consensus. In the absence of an agreement, votes can be organised inside each group. One group is composed of mountaineers, another is made of journalists. Each group casts one vote. In case of a tie, the president of the jury, who will always be a highly experienced mountaineer, gets the last say.

The jury must be representative of the various cultures of high-level mountaineering. Its composition and the choice of its president are the responsibility of the GHM and of Montagnes Magazine. The GHM picks the members of the mountaineers group and Montagnes Magazine is responsible for the choice of the specialised journalists.

Before the ceremony, each team will present its climb to the jury with a detailed description of the means employed, backing up its presentation with as many documents as possible (photographs, testimonies, films). At the end of this first presentation, if the jury considers that a climb does not fit with the spirit of the Piolet d'Or, it can decide to exclude the team from the ceremony.

This charter, the values and the procedures exposed therein, form the premise on which the mountaineers and the members of the jury can base their appreciation. Participation to the Piolet d'Or means that one approves the charter and considers one's self free from any personal commercial, national or political motivations.

The Piolet d'Or

All the climbs which have been selected will be honoured. With the Piolet d'Or, the jury's task is to identify which of them best exemplifies the values of modern mountaineering, without classification. It is only a question of designating every year an ambassador of modern mountaineering. The choice should be made by consensus. Only if necessary, a vote can be organised.

The climbers participate in the process of selecting which team deserves special recognition. Each team can vote for what it considers the most remarkable climb, thereby choosing the great mountaineering's spokesperson for the coming year. It is not allowed to vote for itself. The group of nominees have one vote, like the two other groups (mountaineers and journalists). The president of the jury has the final say.