

RESOLUTION: F2017-SR3
TITLE: Vermont Exploration Day
SPONSORS: Rae Aaron, Speaker
Jin-Mi Sohn, President
DATE: October 8, 2017

Whereas Middlebury prides itself on its location and “sense of place” in the beautiful Champlain Valley between the Green Mountains and Adirondacks;

Whereas Middlebury is currently working on reviving old traditions and creating new traditions;

Whereas the Middlebury Snow Bowl, Lake Dunmore, and numerous hiking trails and swimming areas are accessible within a half-hour drive of campus;

Whereas many students lack transportation means to access and explore Vermont’s natural landscapes beyond their MiddView orientation trip;

Whereas there are a few days each year during which it is too gorgeous a day to be in a classroom or the library;

Whereas there are few opportunities for students to interact with the staff and faculty outside of daily routines and classroom settings;

Whereas student lives are over-scheduled and rely heavily on routines;

Whereas the faculty and student body would benefit from a day of relief from work to enjoy the outdoors;

Whereas students should have opportunities to balance intellectual pursuits with outdoor activities;¹

Whereas many of our peer institutions have organized similar ‘Mountain Days’ and have successfully implemented these days into their institutions’ traditions;²

Be it therefore resolved...

That the Student Government Association recommends President Patton designate one week-day each academic year as a “Vermont Exploration Day”;

¹ <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/mountain-day>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Day

That the Vermont Exploration Day be announced up to two days beforehand and classes be canceled or rescheduled to another day;

That the College provides free transportation to and from Lake Dunmore and the Snow Bowl;

That faculty and staff are encouraged to partake in Vermont Exploration Day festivities with the students;

Finally, that the Administration and Students embrace this day as a new community tradition and work on ways to make activities accessible, inclusive, and fun for all Middlebury students.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Aaron, Speaker
Jin Sohn, President

DRAFT