

Gloucestershire County Scout Council Support Fund Policy

Background

Gloucestershire County Scout Council aims to provide Scouting to as many people across Gloucestershire as is possible, regardless of ability, background or any other factor that makes us different from one another.

To this end, the County has created a fund that provides support to young people (or adults) facing financial hardship. The aim is to give every young person who wants the opportunity to be a Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer Scout or Network member the chance to do so, whatever their circumstances may be.

It is the view of Gloucestershire County Scout Council that Groups and, subsequently Districts, should be the first and second port of call for help for those families experiencing financial hardship. However, it is recognised that some Groups and Districts may, at times already have strains on their resources and thus, a County Support Fund is also available.

What is funded?

Applications will be considered for:

- Contributions to support young people take part in selected International Scouting expeditions where alternative funding is not available.
- Support for youth & adult members in financial hardship to purchase uniform in order to become a member of the Scout Association.
- The cost of a youth member to attend an activity that they may not otherwise be able to take part in.
- Young person membership subscriptions (up to a maximum of 3 school terms), where the Scout Group and the District itself is unable to provide assistance.
- Start-up grants for all new youth sections (up to £250 per section).
- Participation at any other event or activity that provides Scouting where young people or adult members may not benefit, as agreed by the County Executive Committee or relevant sub-committee.

Applications will not be considered for:

- Capital expenditure and investment on property or equipment.
- Repair or upkeep expenditure on property or equipment.
- General Scouting equipment e.g. camping and other activity equipment, craft materials and scout publications.
- Grants for a whole Section or Group to undertake an activity.
- The repayment of loans, deficits, under-payments on events or any kind of retrospective funding of this nature.

The above lists are not exhaustive and will be regularly reviewed the Executive Committee of Gloucestershire County Scout Council.

How to apply

- You can apply by contacting the County Administrator admin@gloucestershire-scouts.org.uk or by downloading the form from the County website and returning it to the County Administrator. All applications are confidential and names will not be disclosed.
- Application must be submitted at least 30 days before the funds are required.
- Please don't assume the answer will automatically be "Yes" – funds are limited and applications may often be in competition with others equally or even more deserving than yours.
- If you are not sure about anything, ask!

Reviewing applications

- All applications will be considered by the County's Finance sub-committee (or where not meeting – the County Executive Committee)
 - Applications will be considered on individual merit with decisions communicated in electronic email to applicants detailing the decision made and where declined, the reasons for doing so.
- Applicants may appeal the decision within 14 days of the decision being communicated.
- In the event of an appeal, the County Commissioner and County Executive Chair will review all appeals and will make a final, binding and resolute decision.
- Applicants will be asked to consider where else funds may be obtained from and what alternatives have been considered before applying.

The County Treasurer will report to the County Executive Committee on the number of people helped and by how much without revealing any details of the individuals concerned.

How the County Support Fund will be financed

- As part of fundraising initiatives, the County will aim at organising one fundraising event per year to help off-set the costs of the funding and therefore reduce the impact on the membership of the County.
- The amount of funding put into the Support Fund will be reviewed every year with the next review due in September 2020 for approval by the County Executive Committee.