



Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida, Inc.
Oakland Park Service Center
4701 NW 33rd Avenue
Oakland Park, FL 33309
Phone: 954-739-7660
www.gssef.org

Financial Assistance Guidelines

Effective: October 1, 2009

Financial Assistance is designed to enable currently registered girl members, or girls seeking membership in Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida jurisdiction, by providing supplemental resources beyond a family's ability to pay. Financial Assistance allocations are subject to availability within the Council's current annual budget. These Guidelines are offered to help navigate the Council's procedure and outline the application process. Applications are held confidentially by the Council (GSSEF) and are not shared with third parties.

- Financial Assistance allocations are made to subsidize the cost of event/program registration fee(s) and/or transportation for GSUSA *Destinations* for an individual girl.
- Girls (adults on their behalf) submitting a Financial Assistance application must be currently registered in Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida, or seeking a new membership within the Council's jurisdiction.
- Financial Assistance application(s) are designed to be completed by an adult within the household, who is able to provide the specific confidential information required.
- GSSEF encourages girls and families to contribute to the event/program, or uniforms and supplies, that they are interested in – and add the amount the household can pay, to the application (on Page 2).
- Financial Assistance may be allocated for payment of the annual GSUSA Membership Dues (\$12 per year beginning Oct. 1, 2009), the purchase of the grade-level appropriate uniform components and some supplies (as described) and event/program opportunities.
- Financial Assistance is not provided to subsidize Troop dues.
- Financial Assistance is not provided to subsidize Troop or individual travel. This includes, but is not limited to, transportation, accommodations, registration/admission fees and meals.
- Financial Assistance is not provided to subsidize transportation (including mileage, tolls, rental vehicles, etc.) to/for Troop, Service Unit or Council-Sponsored events/programs.
- Financial Assistance is not provided to cover specialty items required for an activity. Applicants are responsible for the purchase/supply of their own special clothing and/or equipment, as it relates to any event/program or GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Assistance is not provided for any "Early Bird" registration dues or "Early Bird" incentives.
- Financial Assistance is provided to subsidize registration fees and transportation for GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Assistance is provided to subsidize registration fees for a Girl Scout Council-Sponsored summer resident camp program.

- GSUSA Uniform Council-Allowance is exclusively for girls and is designated for: one Daisy Tunic (OR) one Grade-Level Sash; one Grade-Level Membership Pin, Troop Numeral Patches, and one Council ID Patch.
- A voucher will be mailed to the parent/guardian for the GSUSA Uniform Council-Allowance allocation and/or the Grade-Level Activity/Handbook and the Grade-Level Journey Book and may be redeemed at the Council Shops in Jupiter or Oakland Park within 60 days of the date on the voucher.
- A girl may apply for Financial Assistance for the GSUSA Uniform Council-Allowance only once every 2 years.
- All event/programs entered on a Financial Assistance application must occur within 90 days of the application's date, with the exception of GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Assistance applications for GSUSA *Destinations* may be submitted within 9 months of the event/program start date. A detailed estimate for the cost of transportation is required and must be attached to the application. A full receipt of travel expenses is required following the program.
- A girl may receive Financial Assistance once per fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) for events/programs where the registration fee does not exceed \$35.
- A girl may receive Financial Assistance once per fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) for an event/program registration fee that is more than \$35 and less than \$500.
- A girl may receive Financial Assistance once every 2 years for attending GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Assistance confirmation will be mailed within 4 weeks of date it is received at the Council Service Center. This communication is mailed to the parent/guardian at the household address (on the application) and will state the amount of Financial Assistance allocated to the girl as well as the balance due (if applicable) and the date it is due.
- If confirmation material(s) and/or payment(s) are not returned by the designated date, the funds will no longer be allocated to the applicant and issued back to the Financial Assistance fund.
- For Council-sponsored event/program fees, the allocation shall be made internally via the transfer of funds. For Troop or Service Unit events/programs fees, a check will be made payable to the Troop (c/o Leader) or Service Unit (c/o SUVM). For GSUSA *Destinations* registration fee, a check will be made payable to/mailed to the sponsoring Council. For GSUSA *Destinations* travel expenses, a check will be made payable to, and mailed to, the parent/guardian on the application.
- In the event that the event/program or GSUSA *Destinations* is cancelled, or in the case that an illness or serious injury prohibits a girl's participation, all Financial Assistance monies (for fees and/or travel expenses) made payable to the parent/guardian, shall be returned in full to the Council within 60 days of the event/program/travel start date.
- In specific cases of need, or extenuating circumstances, Financial Assistance may be allocated to registered Girl Scout adults. Call 954-513-3764 for more information.
- Adults may apply for Financial Assistance if their participation is deemed essential to fulfill Safety-Wise requirements or if they are specifically trained adults who meet the program standards/activity checkpoints of the trip/event/activity. Exceptions shall not be provided to satisfy adult/girl ratios.