

GSSEF Financial Aid Guidelines

Effective: October 1, 2009

Financial Aid is designed to aid currently registered girl members, or girls seeking membership in Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida jurisdiction, by providing supplemental resources to households and families. Financial Aid allocations are subject to availability within the Council's current annual budget. These guidelines are offered to help understand and utilize the Financial Aid system. Applications are held confidentially by the Council (GSSEF) and are not shared with third parties.

- Financial Aid allocations are made to subsidize the cost of program registration fees and/or transportation for GSUSA *Destinations* for any individual girl.
- Girls seeking Financial Aid must be currently registered in Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida, or seeking a new membership within the Council's jurisdiction.
- Financial Aid applications should be completed by an adult within the household, who is able to provide the specific confidential information required.
- Financial Aid is designed to provide supplemental resources to households and families, and not necessarily full payment of program registration or items. GSSEF encourages girls and families to contribute to the program or items, etc. that they are interested in attending (or having).
- Financial Aid may be requested for payment of the annual Membership Dues (\$40.00 per year, per girl), the purchase of the grade-level uniform components, some other supplies (e.g. Grade-Level Journey Book or Grade-Level "Girls Guide to Girl Scouting") and program registration fees.
- Financial Aid is not provided to subsidize Troop dues.
- Financial Aid is not provided to subsidize Troop or individual travel. This includes, but is not limited to, transportation, accommodations, registration/admission fees and meals.
- Financial Aid is not provided to subsidize transportation (including mileage, tolls, rental vehicles, etc.) to/for Troop, Service Unit or Council-Sponsored events or programs.
- Financial Aid 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 program or GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Aid is not provided for any "Early Bird" registration dues or "Early Bird" incentives.
- Financial Aid is provided to subsidize registration fees and transportation for GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Aid is provided to subsidize registration fees for Girl Scout Council-Sponsored summer camp programs.
- The Uniform Allowance is exclusively for girls for: one Grade-Level Vest or Sash, one Council ID Patch set, one American Flag Patch and five Troop Numeral Patches.

- GSSEF Retail Store Vouchers are mailed to the parent/guardian and may be redeemed at the Council's Retail Stores within 90 days.
- Girls may apply for Financial Aid for the GSUSA Uniform Council-Allowance every other year.
- Programs must occur within 90 days of the application's date – with the exception of GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Aid applications for GSUSA *Destinations* may be submitted at anytime. Applications must include the acceptance letter and a detailed estimate for the cost of transportation. A full receipt of travel expenses is required following the program attendance.
- Girls may receive Financial Aid once per fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) for a program with a registration fee between \$1.00 and \$35.00.
- Girls may receive Financial Aid once per fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) for a program with a registration fee between \$36.00 and \$499.00.
- Girls may receive Financial Aid once every 2 years for attending a GSUSA *Destinations*.
- Financial Aid applications for GSUSA *Destinations* may be submitted at any time. Applications must include the acceptance letter and a detailed estimate for the cost of transportation. A full receipt of travel expenses is required following the program attendance.
- Financial Aid confirmation will be emailed to the parent/guardian, and Vouchers 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).
- For Council-sponsored program fees, the allocation will be made internally. For Service Unit program fees, a check will be made payable to the hosting Service Unit (c/o Service Unit Volunteer Manager). 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 Aid monies made payable to the parent/guardian, shall be returned in full to the Council within 60 days from the first date of travel.
- In specific cases of need, or extenuating circumstances, Financial Assistance may be allocated to registered Girl Scout adults on a case-by-case basis. Call 561-427-0177 for more information.
- Adults may apply for Financial Assistance if their participation is deemed essential as specifically trained volunteers who are required to meet program standards or Safety Activity checkpoints of the trip/event/activity. Exceptions shall not be provided to satisfy adult/girl ratios.