

GSSEF Financial Assistance Guidelines

Effective: October 1, 2009 • Revised: August 1, 2018

What is Financial Assistance?

- Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida strives to offer all girls the opportunity to be a Girl Scout. In order to lessen the financial barriers that may limit participation, we offer funds to assist those who need it.
- Financial Assistance allocations are subject to availability within the Council's current annual budget.
- The Council's ability to provide Financial Assistance allocations is supported by donations to GSSEF, donations from disbanding and graduating Ambassador-level troops, and by designating a portion of the Council's regular operating budget so we can offer the incredible gift of Girl Scouting to as many girls as possible. To donate to this fund, call 561-815-1800.
- Financial Assistance is designed to provide supplemental resources to households and families, and not necessarily full payment of program registration, or items. GSSEF encourages girls, families and troops to contribute to the best of their ability.
- Troops and girls are encouraged to participate in our Council's annual money earning opportunities, the Fall Product and Cookie Sale programs, and use these girl-led programs to set goals that will support all of the things they want to do.
- Financial Assistance applications are held confidentially by GSSEF and are not shared with third parties.

What to know about Financial Assistance eligibility:

- Financial Assistance allocations are made to provide the full cost of new membership registration, for girls, within the Council's jurisdiction.
- Financial Assistance allocations are made to subsidize the cost of program registration fees for girls currently registered in Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida and within the Council's jurisdiction.
- Financial Assistance allocations are made to subsidize the cost of training opportunities for currently registered adult volunteers.
- Financial Assistance allocations are made to subsidize the cost of purchasing girl's grade-level uniform components, handbooks (or Journey books) and program registration fees.
- Financial Assistance allocations are made to provide the full cost of new membership for adult membership registration, in specific cases of need or extenuating circumstances, that could jeopardize troop formation or a specialized activity. Call 561-427-0177 for more information.

What's not eligible for Financial Assistance?

- 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 cover specialty items/equipment required for an activity.
- Financial Assistance is not provided for membership renewal or re-registration incentives.
- Financial Assistance is not provided to register an adult in order to satisfy adult/girl ratios.
- Financial Assistance is not provided retroactively and is not provided as a reimbursement.

What to know about the Council Retail Store Voucher:

- Retail Store Vouchers are mailed, via U.S. Mail, to the parent/guardian on the application.
- Retail Store Vouchers are valid for 90 days.
- Retail Store Vouchers must be redeemed in-person at a GSSEF Retail Store; the vouchers cannot be redeemed online.
- Retail Store Vouchers may be requested for new girl members or when a girl bridges to a new grade-level.
- Retail Store Vouchers provide the ability to purchase the following items: Membership Pin, one Vest, Sash or Daisy Tunic, one Council ID Patch set, one American Flag Patch, up to five Troop Numeral Patches, one *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* and/or one Journey book.
- Retail Store Vouchers have no cash value.

What to know about Program and Training Registration:

- Programs and Training must occur within 90 days of the application date.
- Registration fees for Council-sponsored programs and training will be made internally.
- Registration fees for Service Unit Camporee/Ingathering program fees will be paid directly to the host Service Unit (c/o Service Unit Volunteer Manager).
- Registration fees for a training that is not sponsored by GSSEF will be paid directly to the provider.
- In the event that a training or Service Unit Camporee/Ingathering is cancelled, or in the case that an illness or serious injury prohibits participation, Financial Assistance paid, shall be returned in full to the Council within 30 days from the program's first date.

What to know about the application process:

- Financial Assistance applications should be completed by an adult within the household, who is able to provide the specific confidential information required.
- Financial Assistance allocations are subject to availability within the Council's current annual budget.
- Financial Assistance applications are held confidentially by GSSEF and are not shared with third parties.
- Notice of Financial Assistance allocations are made via email and may take up to two weeks.

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