

Hardship Policy

One of our priorities is offering an inclusive and accessible Scouting opportunity for all. The Group recognises that there are circumstances where members may be unable to meet the full financial commitment for Scouting events, membership subs or some other cost, but their participation would be both deserving and of significant benefit. This policy outlines the framework for handling cases of financial hardship, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis and where sufficient funds are available. The total amount available for support (the Hardship Fund) each year is set by the Group Executive Committee as a proportion of annual income from fundraising.

A young person's parents or carers should complete the application form, attach supporting documentation and hand to the relevant Section leader for passing to the Hardship sub-committee (the Group Treasurer and two non-parent members). Individual hardship cases will be treated as confidential and anonymised in any meeting minutes or external reports.

Criteria for Support

The Hardship sub-committee will consider the application and exercise its discretion according to the following factors:

Financial and family situation – normally adopting as a guide the Surrey Education Authority criteria for free school meals (eg. documentary evidence of entitlement to income support or other state benefits) and/or who have suffered some other family or personal hardship.

Commitment to Scouting - The young person must show a regular commitment to the Group – normally 6 months of regular attendance, confirmed by their Section leader.

Parental help/support – regular commitment to fundraising events and the parent rota.

Support Available

The Hardship Fund can contribute to two camps/events per year or one camp/event and membership subscriptions. The maximum contribution is up to 2/3rd of fees for any camp or other main event and/or 2/3rd of membership subscriptions. It may be less depending on the demands on the Hardship Fund in the particular year.

The applicant must pay his/her contribution on time in order to secure the contribution from the Hardship Fund.

Hardship Fund Application Form - Confidential

Applicant's Name

Section

Application for:

Camp

Event/Trip

Subs

Other

Summary of support requested:

Total Cost (£)

Support requested (£)

(max 2/3rd)

Reasons for request - financial and family situation:

Financial documentation attached (please supply copies rather than originals if possible)

Evidence of commitment to Scouting and parental help/support given in the last 12 months

Parent/Carer Name

Signed

Date

(Give this form with documentation in a sealed envelope to your Section Leader who will add his/her comments on commitment to Scouting etc and pass to the sub-committee for consideration).