



Bramley Scout Group Hardship Fund

Approved 04 May 2023

We never want finances to be a barrier for a young person to take part in Scouting.

If a family is either unable to sign their child up to Scouting or is likely to have to remove their child from Scouting due to financial hardship, then this fund is designed to support them. It can help cover such things as:

- Subs - the subscription fee to take part in Scouts on a weekly basis which is paid termly.
- Activities/events/camps - anything included in the Group's programme that requires an additional payment from the parent/carer over and above regular subs.
- Travel - costs incurred by the young person getting to/from Scouting activities.
- Uniform - any item in the uniform category on Scout Store

Requirements

There are two criteria that need to be met for a young person to be eligible for hardship funding:

- The young person's family is experiencing financial hardship
- The young person shows a regular commitment to Scouting.

These criteria are explained further below:

Financial hardship

Evidence that can help make the best judgement of 'financial hardship' would be if a family is in receipt of one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Free school meals
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Young people and adults who are carers or are considered 'looked after children' or previously looked after children would also be eligible, as would those under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Applications will also be considered in other cases based on the family's personal circumstances.

Commitment to Scouting

The applicant must show a regular commitment to the Group, commensurate with the subsidy requested. The following is a minimum:

- Membership of the Association
- Regular attendance throughout the previous term, confirmed by their relevant Section Leader. In the case of members new to the Group, then regularly attendance in the current term will be required or the support will be withdrawn.

Parental contribution

The grants are provided on a matched funding basis (i.e. the recipient must usually make a financial contribution alongside the Group's grant). In special circumstances, grants may be made without matching funding.

Procedure

Applications for hardship funds should be made by the young person's parents, guardians or carers using the Hardship Application Form. This should be submitted to the Treasurer at treasurer@bramley-scouts.org.uk

The application will be considered by the Treasurer and evidence of the young person's commitment to Scouting will be obtained from the Section Leader.

The Treasurer will decide whether the support should be granted and at what level and will communicate this to the parents, guardians or carers.

The Treasurer will report to the Executive Committee the total value of grants given at each Executive Committee meeting.

Support will be granted on an event by event basis or a termly basis in the case of subs. The parents, guardians or carers must reapply each term for continuing support with subs.

Total Funding Available

The total amount available for support (the Hardship Fund) in a given financial year will be set out in the Group's Reserves Policy which is reviewed on an annual basis

In any given financial year, the Treasurer cannot grant hardship support in excess of the amount set aside in the Reserves Policy without first obtaining approval from the Executive Committee. Grants in excess of the amount set aside in the Reserve Policy will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.

Consideration

The primary consideration must always be the young person: if they have shown a regular commitment to Scouting are keen and active members then we should be doing everything we can to enable them to participate.

Payment options

Where funding is granted for subscriptions or activities/events/camps then the parent/carer will be asked to pay the reduced amount to the Group rather than the full amount. In the case of activities/events/camp, the Group will then pay the full amount to the provider of the activity.

Where funding is requested for uniform then the Group will assist with the provision of uniform, firstly through the acquisition of second hand uniform, or through the provision of vouchers for the Scout shop where no second hand uniform is available.

Where funding is for travel costs, we will either refund an agreed proportion of the cost of the ticket where public transport has been used (a receipt must therefore be provided showing the cost incurred) or we will pay 25p per mile where the parent/carer has used their own vehicle (details of the journey and the mileage incurred will therefore need to be provided).

Confidentiality

Information relating to individual hardship cases is often highly personal and will therefore be treated as strictly confidential. Any record of discussion of a hardship case at Group Executive Committee will be on an anonymous basis. Only the Treasurer and the Section Leader will be aware of the identity of the applicant.