



Financial Access To Scouting Policy

Overview

As a group we want to ensure that financial hardship does not block a child's access to participating in scouting. This policy outlines 1st Holgate Scout Group's processes for allocating financial support for members to enable them to access Scouting opportunities.

Version Control

Version	Author	Date	Reason for Change	Approved
0.1	Rhian Wells	4 Nov 2024	1st draft	n/a
0.2	Rhian Wells	20 Feb 2025	re draft after Trustee review	n/a
1.0	Nate Simpson	20 Feb 2025	move to template	25 Mar 2025

Review

This document will be reviewed at least annually to confirm it still fulfils the group's needs. The next review is due a year from the last update

Contents

Overview.....	1
Version Control.....	1
Review.....	1
Contents.....	2
Background.....	3
Access to Scouting Fund.....	3
Eligibility.....	3
Process.....	3
Selection Criteria.....	4
Receipts.....	5
Application for Financial support to access Scouting - Form.....	6

Background

We are proud that members of 1st Holgate Scout Group benefit greatly from the opportunities offered through the locally delivered programmes and wider district, national and international events. The Group wants to ensure parity of access to scouting and, where possible, mitigate financial barriers that prevent access for some members.

Access to Scouting Fund

1st Holgate Scout Group will maintain a financial hardship fund that will be utilised to mitigate financial barriers for access to Scouting. The amount held in the fund will be agreed annually by the Trustees and be informed by the Group's financial position at that time. The hardship fund may be accessed to support with:

- Payment of joining fees and subscription fees;
- Access to 1st Holgate Scout Group events;
- Access to international events (World Scout Jamboree; Roveaway and the World Scout Moot) where members have been selected to represent 1st Holgate Scout Groups or the District; or
- Other financial support the intention of mitigating barriers to access.

Eligibility

Any person who is a member of 1st Holgate Scout Group is eligible to request financial support for the reasons set out above.

Process

An initial discussion should be had with the relevant section leader where financial barriers are preventing access to the Scouting provision offered. Section leaders should refer interested parties to this guidance. Where the amount is relatively small (e.g. cost of a sleepover or missed subs for a time limited period) section leaders should consider whether the application may be covered within the usual discretionary spend limits with approval from the Group Lead Volunteer.

If the request does not fall under discretionary spend limits, a request should be made to by parents, carers or guardians on behalf of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. Explorers may submit a request directly, supported by written agreement of a parent, carer, or guardian. Adult volunteers should make the request themselves. The request should include:

- The full cost of the event/activity/fee and amount of financial support requested;
- What the request is for and what benefits it will provide to the applicant and/or the 1st Holgate Scout Group more broadly;
- For local or international events, whether the applicant has or will undertake fundraising to support the cost;
- Any other circumstances that should be considered (such as objective evidence of hardship [e.g. whether the member is eligible for free school meals/pupil premium] or has challenges or needs that hardship funding will help them overcome).

Where appropriate, section leaders will be asked by the Trustees for a view on the application. Section leaders may directly support members, their parents, carers or guardians' in drafting an application.

The completed form should be sent by the section leader to the Group Lead Volunteer for consideration and tabling for discussion with Trustees.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be considered by the Trustees at their quarterly meetings. In exceptional circumstances and where time is critical, applications may be reviewed by the Trustees between meetings. Failure to apply in a timely manner will not be considered an exceptional circumstance.

To enable the fund to provide support widely, allocations will usually part fund costs of access with a maximum of 50% of the cost. Allocations covering more than 50% of the cost will only be provided in very exceptional circumstances.

The Trustees will consider the following when considering applications:

- Access to 1st Holgate Scouting provision
- National/international events where the applicant has been selected to represent the group or district.

- Evidence of fundraising
- Commitment to share learning/experience with wider Group
- Exceptional circumstances

Capacity to provide support will be guided by the financial position of the Group – therefore similar applications may receive different outcomes at different times.

The decision of the Trustees is final.

Receipts

Where the request is for support in funding for events outside the 1st Holgate Group offer, funding will be made available in advance of spend. However, receipts will be required to demonstrate evidence of appropriate spending within one month of the event.

Failure to provide evidence of appropriate spend may result in future applications being de-prioritised.

END OF POLICY

Form below

Application for Financial support to access Scouting - Form

Name of Applicant	
Section (Cubs, Scouts ...)	
Full cost of event/activity/fee	
Financial support requested	
If approved, benefits provided to applicant and 1st Holgate Scout Group	
Fundraising undertaken / planned?	
Other relevant circumstances (objective evidence hardship, particular needs or requirements)	
Signature of applicant (Explorers or adult volunteers) OR Parent, Carer or Guardian	
Views of section leader	

Please provide attachments if space is insufficient