



## Financial Assistance Policy and Procedure

*GSNENY (Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York) maintains a financial assistance fund to help ensure all eligible youth and adults can join and participate fully in Girl Scouts. Financial Assistance applications are accepted year-round. Awards are made based on the applicant's financial need, specific criteria by program, and the availability of funds.*

*Financial Assistance is for activities organized at the Council level. GSNENY is unable to provide financial assistance for troop or service unit-sponsored activities.*

*In instances where financial disclosures are required, we utilize a rubric that considers income and family size. Additional factors may be considered including participation in product sales programs which allow members to earn money that can be used to pay for Girl Scout programming. A committee assists in reviewing applications that do not meet the financial criteria but for which extenuating circumstances exist.*



## Financial Assistance Policy and Procedure

Girls may apply for the following forms of assistance:

### Membership

**Eligibility:** Any child who is eligible to join Girl Scouts, and lives within Council #153, Northeastern NY is eligible to receive financial assistance for membership (including the GSUSA membership fee and the Council Service Fee). Financial Assistance is available for new and renewed memberships.

**Limitations:** Awards are subject to availability of funds.

**Terms and Conditions:** Caregiver must complete Financial Assistance/Registration form (online, on paper, or customer care can assist via phone or in-person). Awards are made using the “honor system”. Financial disclosures are not required.

Applicants are asked to pay what they can. They will be provided with choices for full or partial funding and will be given the option to apply outstanding cookie credits toward the purchase of a membership.

The membership product issued will be determined at the time of purchase based on the products available and the time of year.

Lifetime membership for graduating Girl Scouts is not eligible for financial assistance.

Troops and Service Units may also use their own funds to cover the cost of new and renewed memberships.

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### Girl Scout Insignia

**Eligibility:** Any current Girl Scout youth member in Council #153, Northeastern New York is eligible to receive financial assistance for Girl Scout insignia items (pin tab, Girl Scout Membership pin, World Trefoil pin). Membership and insignia requests may be submitted simultaneously.

**Limitations:** Awards are subject to the availability of funds. Families are asked to pay what they can. Except in cases where there are extenuating circumstances, insignia items will be issued to new members, or to members who are bridging to a level requiring a different tab. It is expected that members will retain their pins throughout their Girl Scout career and will replace tabs only when bridging to a new level.

**Terms and Conditions:** Caregiver must complete the Financial Assistance form (online or customer care can assist via phone or in-person) Awards are made using the "honor system". Financial disclosures are not required.

Insignia awards must be picked up (by caregiver or troop volunteers) at a GSNENY service center.

Troops and Service Units may also use their own funds to cover the cost of uniforms and insignia.

Please note: Girl Scouts do not need to wear uniforms to sell cookies. They are expected to be identifiable as Girl Scouts. All types of Girl Scout attire including hoodies, t-shirts, hats and pins are acceptable.

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### Summer Camp

**Eligibility:** Any current Girl Scout youth member in Council #153, Northeastern New York is eligible to receive financial assistance to attend GSNENY summer camp. Requests for assistance for membership and camp may be submitted simultaneously. Financial assistance may be requested to cover the cost of camp programs, busing (where applicable), and overnight/campfire (where applicable). In some specific cases, additional assistance may be available depending on the source of the funds.

**Limitations:** Awards are subject to program capacities and the availability of funds and are considered on a rolling basis from the opening of camp registration through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Families are asked to pay what they can. Awards are limited to one session of summer camp OR one instance of travel assistance per child, per year.

**Terms and Conditions:** Caregiver must complete the Financial Assistance form (online or customer care can assist via phone or in-person). Financial disclosures are required. Caregivers are asked to pay the portion of the camp cost they can, at minimum the \$100 deposit. The deposit can be waived in instances of greater financial need and will be refunded in cases where an award is insufficient for the child to attend camp. Any currently valid Cookie Dough, S'mores Club or Program Vouchers that a Girl Scout possesses will be applied as payment prior to the award of financial assistance for camp.

Troops and Service Units may also use their own funds to cover the cost of camps.



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### Year-Round Council Programs

**Eligibility:** Any current Girl Scout youth member in Council #153, Northeastern New York is eligible to receive financial assistance to attend year-round programs. Membership and program requests may be submitted simultaneously.

**Limitations:** Awards are subject to the availability of funds and program capacity. Families are asked to pay what they can. Awards are limited to a maximum of \$200 for up to 3 awards, per child, per membership year. Financial assistance is available for Council-provided programming only, not those provided by external vendors or for programs coordinated at the Service Unit or Troop level.

**Terms and Conditions:** Caregiver must complete the Financial Assistance form (online or customer care can assist via phone or in-person). Financial disclosures are required for programs costing greater than \$50. Caregivers are asked to contribute what they can. Any currently valid Cookie Dough, S'mores Club or Program Vouchers that a Girl Scout possesses will be applied as payment prior to the award of financial assistance for programs.

Troops and Service Units may also use their own funds to cover the cost of programs.

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### Travel

**Eligibility:** Any current Girl Scout youth member in Council #153, Northeastern New York is eligible to receive financial assistance to participate GSUSA sponsored Destinations Travel programs, travel sponsored by GSNENY or another Girl Scout Council, or admission to GSUSA's Girl Scout Convention. Travel initiated at the troop or service unit level is ineligible for assistance.

**Limitations:** Awards are subject to the availability of funds. Awards are limited to one week of summer camp OR one instance of travel assistance, per child, per membership year.

In the case of Council-Sponsored or GSUSA travel, a Girl Scout may apply for financial assistance in subsequent years to fund a single trip. GSNENY will make payments of financial assistance directly to the vendor within 30 days of the award. If travel is cancelled for any reason, any financial assistance awards paid must be returned to the Council.

**Terms and Conditions:** Caregiver must complete the Financial Assistance form (online or customer care can assist via phone or in-person). Financial disclosures are required. Travel awards are intended to cover a portion of the total cost of travel and do not exceed \$500 per award. Any currently valid Cookie Dough, S'mores Club or Program Vouchers that a Girl Scout possesses will be applied as payment before the award of financial assistance for travel.

Troop and Service Unit funds may also be used to cover the cost of travel.



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Adults may apply for the following forms of assistance:

### Membership

Eligibility: Any Adult who is or will be an active volunteer in a volunteer role at the troop, service unit or Council level for Girl Scouts Northeastern NY is eligible to receive financial assistance for membership (GSUSA membership fee). Financial Assistance is available for new and renewed memberships.

Limitations: Awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Terms and Conditions: Adults must complete the Financial Assistance/Registration form (online or customer care can assist via phone or in-person). Awards are made using the "honor system". Financial disclosures are not required. Adults must identify the role and troop/service unit in which they plan to volunteer at the time of application.

The membership product issued will be determined at the time based on the options available and the time of year.

Lifetime membership is not eligible for financial assistance.

Troops and Service Units may also use their own funds to cover the cost of new and renewed memberships.

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### Adult Volunteer Trainings

**Eligibility:** Girl Scouts of Northeastern NY volunteers who fill an active role in a Troop or Service unit are eligible to receive financial assistance to participate in GSNENY Volunteer Services training.

**Limitations:** Awards are subject to the availability of funds and program capacity. Volunteers are asked to pay what they can.

**Terms and Conditions:** Adults must complete the Financial Assistance form (online or customer care can assist via phone or in-person) Awards are made using the “honor system”. Financial disclosures are not required.

Troop and Service Unit funds may also be used to cover the cost of GSNENY volunteer training.

Due to limited funds, GSNENY does not currently offer financial assistance for adults wishing to acquire a uniform or attend a youth program that requires adult registration