



Girl Scouts of Western Washington

Financial Assistance 2018-2019

Frequently Asked Questions

Q#1: Why has the Financial Assistance Program changed?

A: We changed the grant structure and system tools in response to the many challenges experienced by our membership when requesting Financial Assistance. Surveys from those applying helped us to seriously evaluate our systems, processes, and capacity to manage the additional requests without sacrificing customer service. We focused on the following areas to improve the grant structure and system tools:

- Updating manual processes to automated processes to allow for more attention to customer service and faster processing time for eligibility submissions and grant requests.
- Allowing volunteers and girls easier access to their approved grant funds.
- Implementing a long-term, sustainable technical solution for better data integrity and reporting

Q#2: Have the Financial Assistance eligibility guidelines changed?

A: No, there has been no change to our eligibility guidelines. They are the same as the Federal School Lunch Program. If a girl qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch, the family will qualify for our Financial Assistance Program. Or, if a girl is a foster child, the girl will qualify for our Financial Assistance Program.

If you don't meet the eligibility guidelines, but you believe you have a unique situation, submit the [2018-2019 Financial Assistance Application](#). You will receive a notification regarding your eligibility status. If the notification states 'denied', you'll see some details about how to tell us about your unique situation. As soon as we receive your response, your case will then be quickly reviewed.

Q#3: What grants have changed?

A:

- The **Girl Supply Voucher** has increased from \$70 to \$77. These cards will continue to be mailed to the family or the Troop Leader. There will be an option for Troop Leaders to combine Girl Supply Vouchers to one card to simplify the purchasing process. Our Financial Assistance Team will provide guidance and support for Leaders that want a combination card.
- The **Adult Supply Voucher** has been absorbed into the **Troop Supply Voucher**.
- The Troop Leaders no longer need to be eligible for financial assistance to receive the **Troop Supply Voucher(s)**. If 3 or more girls within a troop are eligible for Financial Assistance, their troop will qualify for the **Troop Supply Voucher**. When this occurs, Troop Leaders will receive an email from the Financial Assistance Team regarding next steps for grant processing. We have also expanded the voucher to include the adult insignia pin, official membership pin, and world trefoil pin (previously included in **Adult Supply Vouchers**).
- For Council run events and Service Unit events, members can select Financial Assistance as the payment type when registering. No additional **Event Grant** request needs to be submitted.
- For a Volunteer-Led camp session, members can select Financial Assistance as the payment type when registering. No additional **Camp Grant** request needs to be submitted. Or, for a Council-Led camp session, members can register through the CampInTouch system and registrants will

automatically get cross referenced with the list of girls that have qualified for our Financial Assistance Program. No additional **Camp Grant** request needs to be submitted.

- **Travel Grants** can be requested during the membership year of the trip or the membership year prior to the trip. Also, receipts and invoices are no longer required at the time of a **Travel Grant** submission. Troop Leaders will be required to submit this documentation with their Annual Troop Finance Report instead. Funds will be deposited into the travel troop or group account.

Q#4: How do customers request Membership Dues Grants?

A: Because membership is key, **Membership Dues Grants** are offered to girls and adults who want to join Girl Scouts of Western Washington and/or to renew their membership. The Girl Scout membership year runs October 1-September 30. To request this grant, first qualify for the Financial Assistance Program by submitting the annual [2018-2019 Financial Assistance Application](#). Then submit your Membership Registration ([Join Girl Scouts](#) or [Renewing Membership](#)) and indicate Financial Assistance as the payment type. Applicants will be notified via email once the grant is processed. Prefer **paper forms** instead? No problem! Paper Membership Forms and paper Financial Assistance Applications are available on the website to download, are at all regional Girl Scout offices, and can be mailed directly to you – just give us a call!

Q#5: How do members request additional grants beyond membership dues?

A: Members are required to first qualify for the Financial Assistance Program by submitting the annual [2018-2019 Financial Assistance Application](#). In addition to **Membership Dues Grants**, girls and adults are eligible for up to 3 grants plus 1 **Camp Grant** or **Travel Grant** per membership year. Check out our webpage at www.GirlScoutsWW.org/FinancialAssistance to learn how easy it is to submit requests for all the different types of grants we offer. To request some grants (**Event Grants and Camp Grants** for example), it can be as easy as selecting Financial Assistance as your payment type when registering for that event or camp. For other grant types (**Supply Vouchers and Troop Dues Grants**), a grant request can be submitted via the [2018-2019 Financial Assistance Application](#).

Q#6: When can applicants submit grant requests?

A: We accept and process **Membership Dues Grant** requests all year long. You must submit your eligibility information each year on or after every September 1st.

For the 2018-2019 membership year, we accept and process **Supply Voucher, Troop Dues, Event Grant Camp Grant and Travel Grant** requests from October 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

For the 2019-2020 membership year, we will start accepting **Supply Voucher, Troop Dues, Event Grant, Camp Grant and Travel Grant** requests on September 1, 2019, and will begin processing these grant requests on October 1, 2019.

Q#7: What type of consent do applicants need to provide when requesting Financial Assistance?

A: Troop leaders, staff, or other volunteers can submit the Financial Assistance Application for girls and/or adults if the applicant provides verbal authorization. Applicants may also include a volunteer or 2nd parent's name and email address as a secondary contact on the Financial Assistance Application. The Financial Assistance Team will notify this secondary contact for both grant confirmations and follow-up needs.

Q#8: How do troops request a Troop Supply Voucher?

A: Troop Leaders no longer need to be eligible for Financial Assistance to receive a **Troop Supply Voucher**. If 3 or more girls within a troop are eligible for Financial Assistance, their troop will qualify for the **Troop Supply Voucher**. When this occurs, Troop Leaders will receive an email from the Financial Assistance Team regarding next steps for grant processing. The **Troop Supply Voucher** has also expanded to include the adult insignia pin, official membership pin, and world trefoil pin.