

Employer Gift Matching FAQ

Who is eligible for gift matching? Do I have to be a Girl Scout?

Anyone employed by a company participating with a gift matching program is eligible! You don't have to be a Girl Scout, have a child who is a Girl Scout, or be in any way affiliated with Girl Scouts. Even retirees of some companies also qualify for this benefit. Reach out to your HR to find out if that includes you!

What companies offer gift matching?

Check out our list of companies with gift matching programs that include time matching. If you don't see your company, don't despair! Many companies began their gift matching programs because of employee interest. Let yours know how they can support you and your values by encouraging them to offer gift matching. We'd love for more people to have this excellent opportunity!

Can I use my spouse's gift matching program?

If a monetary donation is made from a joint account with an employee eligible for gift matching, then yes, it qualifies for that company's program! Unfortunately, volunteer time matching must be performed by the eligible employee for matching consideration.

What contributions are eligible for employer gift matching?

Any donation or gift of volunteered time to Girl Scouts of Western Washington is eligible. And you don't have to choose between them! Even if you both volunteer and donate, all of your generous contributions are eligible up to whatever gift matching limit your company might have in place. Donations of stock may even be eligible for employer gift matching. If you're interested in donating stock to Girl Scouts of Western Washington, please reach out to our VP of Finance, Samantha Franklin, at sfranklin@girlscoutsww.org.

Is my method of volunteering eligible for gift matching?

Yes! Any time volunteered on behalf of Girl Scouts is eligible for gift matching. Whether you're a troop leader, co-leader, cookie manager, chaperone, guest speaker, special expert, mentor, coach, event volunteer, or just participating for adult coverage, your time can be submitted for matching consideration. Even behind the scenes support without any girl interaction counts (i.e. treasurer, event planning, attending a volunteer learning event, workshop, and more)!

How do I make a matched gift?

Most employers provide online forms that take about 3 minutes to fill out. Just access your internal employee portal and follow the steps! You'll be asked to enter the name of the non-profit organization (Girl Scouts of Western Washington), whether you're submitting time or money, and how much or how many hours you're submitting for matching. It's an easy process and a simple way to double your impact!

How soon do I need to submit a gift for matching?

You should submit your gift within a year of giving. Some people choose to submit the sum of their yearly donations and volunteer hours, and some people submit on a monthly basis. Check with your HR to decide the schedule that's best for you and your employer.

What do matching funds support?

Employer matching funds designated to Girl Scouts of Western Washington help provide every girl with the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts. These funds support our financial assistance, camp operations, and exciting girl-facing programs throughout Western Washington. Employer matching contribution help remove barriers and make Girl Scout programming more accessible for all girls. By participating in gift matching, you help to multiply that impact!

Can I designate gift matching to support a specific troop, service unit, or volunteer-led camp?

Thank you so much for investing your time and money in your personal troop, service unit, or volunteer-led camp! Unfortunately, your monetary gifts to these programs are not tax deductible and therefore ineligible for gift matching.

Your time spent volunteering with these programs can be submitted for gift matching, but the gift must be made to Girl Scouts of Western Washington and will benefit girls across the council.

These restrictions are due to IRS regulations on private benefit. Girl Scouts of Western Washington is a registered 501(c)3. As programmatic offerings of the Girl Scouts of Western Washington, troops, service units, and volunteer-led camps are not eligible for 501(c)3 status. We applaud your passion and encourage you to still consider gift matching as a way to extend access to excellent programs like the ones you cherish to girls across the council!

For further information:

According to IRS regulations, gift-matching and time-matching funds may not be used to support a specific troop or Service Unit (SU), or Volunteer Led Camp, as this is considered a private benefit. (IRS: 4221-PC: Compliance Guide for 501(c) Charities, 'What Activities May Jeopardize a Public Charity's Tax-Exempt Status?' 'Private Benefit and Inurement - A public charity is prohibited from allowing more than an insubstantial accrual of private benefit to individuals or organizations. This restriction is to ensure that a tax-exempt organization serves a public interest, not a private one. If a private benefit is more than incidental, it could jeopardize the organization's tax-exempt status.' Additional information may be found at IRS.gov, in IRS Publication 557, p. 50 (2nd column, near the bottom of the page), or by calling the IRS at (877) 829-5500 and asking to speak with the Tax Law group.

Thank you for your interest in employer gift matching. Above all, thank you for all you do to support Girl Scouts of Western Washington!