

12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scout Group Policy

on Support in a case of Hardship

Revision 1.0

Date April 2021

Background

12th Aylesbury (1st Buckingham Park) Scout Group here with referred to as “the group” have decided to create a special fund which will encourage the growth of Scouting in our Group. Our aim is to give every young person who wants the opportunity to be a Beaver, Cub, Scout the chance to do so, whatever their circumstances may be.

It is the view of the Group Executive that families experiencing difficulties will have an equal opportunity of obtaining support.

This fund will be named “**The Soames Support Fund**” in recognition of the support that the Soames family have afforded our group, offering us a venue for our end of year camp in the beginning when the group was first established and resources were particularly limited. Interestingly, Rupert Soames is also the great-nephew of 1st Baron Robert Baden-Powell and his wife Olave. With this link to Scouting and the support of the family for our group, our exec committee felt this a very fitting name for the fund.

What do we fund?

Things we intend to be able to fund include: (This is not exhaustive and will be review annually by the Group Executive)

- The cost of a youth member attending an activity that they may not otherwise be able to take part in
- Support for youth & adult members in financial hardship to purchase uniform
- Group subscriptions (up to a maximum of 3 terms), where the group itself is unable to provide assistance

Things we will not fund:

This is not exhaustive and will be review annually by the Group Executive

- General scouting equipment e.g. camping and other activity equipment, craft materials and scout publications.
- Grants for a whole Section or Group to undertake an activity
- The repayment of loans, deficits on events or any kind of retrospective funding
- Contributions to international scouting expeditions

How to apply

What is most important is to have a clear idea of what you want funded and why, what are the total costs, how much you are able to contribute yourself and how much you are asking for. If you do not have the balance, where will it come from?

All applications are confidential, names will not be disclosed and you can apply by contacting the group Scout leader:

gsl@12thaylesbury-scouts.org.uk.

All applications will be considered by the representative of the Group’s Executive Committee, with guidance also from the Leader Team, generally via e-mail/telephone on a no names basis. The Treasurer will report to the Exec each meeting on the number of people helped and by how much without revealing any details of the individuals concerned. Current limits applied by the Group Executive are based on the Ralph Reader Memorial Fund criteria, as such;

Maximum grants of £200 per individual for camp fees, or 50% of costs whichever is the lower amount. For other purposes a maximum grant of 50% of costs is the norm. Matched funding is always sought where possible. Applicants must provide evidence of financial hardship for beneficiaries.

Please don’t assume the answer will automatically be “Yes” – our funds are limited, however, rest assured we will consider all applications thoughtfully and fairly. And please do remember yours may not be the only application. If you are not sure about anything, ask!

How will the Fund be financed?

The Fund will be financed from a set amount declared at each AGM from funding achieved throughout the year.

“Cost should not be a barrier to anyone taking part in Scouting and if this is an issue, you can speak to the local Section Leader in confidence”.

Issued April 2021 – Review Annually

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Personal Details of Applicant

Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

Type of Funding Applied For and details

Full Cost

Subs Relief		
Events	Section	
	Group	
	District	
	County	
	International	

Reasons given by applicant/Leader

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Details of other funding approached if applicable

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Conditions of the funding

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Approvals

Chairperson

GSL

Exec Quorum

Treasurer

Exec Agreement

The must be 2 signatories and a quorate decision in order for the application to be valid. A signatory can not be the proposer for the application.

Advice on individual 'financial hardship' from HQ – (for exec members to refer to)

Financial hardship can be a difficult subject for individuals to discuss within their Group with other parents and Leaders. Currently the Group have decided to define in line with the criteria used by the Development Grants Board, this is as follows;

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

- Recent change in circumstances
- Free school meals – Not including Universal Infant Free School Meals*
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have
- an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's
- Revenue and Customs*
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

*Free school meals are provided to all pupils in primary schools in a few areas of the country, so the other indicators are more valid in these circumstances.

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