

Girl Scout Experience Fund Policy

The Girl Scout Experience Fund Committee distributes funds as defined by the Board of Directors from the Girl Scout Experience Quasi-Endowment Fund. The fund supports each Girl Scout of the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois in experiencing activities that build courage, confidence, and character.

The GSofSI Board of Directors will provide the Girl Experience Fund Committee with a total amount to be granted each fiscal year. Troops and Service Units from the GSofSI Council complete a grant request explaining the use of the requested funds and submit it to this committee for review and a decision.

The following requirements govern the requests and activities of the Girl Scout Experience Fund Committee (GSEFC).

Members of the Committee

The number of members of the GSEFC and their respective terms are defined by the GSEFC Charge approved by the GSofSI Board of Directors. Each member of the committee will have the opportunity to review the grant applications and vote on each request. If the request is for a girl in a committee member's troop or service unit, the committee member must abstain from voting on that request.

Financial Considerations

The GSofSI Board of Directors will provide the GSEF Committee with the amount available each fiscal year.

The Finance Department will hold 20% of the allotted funds until February 1 each year to allow for summer program grant requests.

Information will be given to the Finance Department by the 10th of the month for all approvals given in the previous month. This information will be reported to the GSEF Committee, the Board of Directors Finance Committee, and the Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meetings.

Grant Requests/Applications

Grant request/application forms and further instructions on how to complete the request are available on the GSofSI website. The completed forms should be submitted to the council.

Requests will be reviewed timely by members of the committee and/or Customer Care based on the following criteria at the time of grant request or reservation:

- Girl must be a registered Girl Scout.
- Girl and/or troop must participate in at least one Girl Scout Product Program. Participation includes, but is not limited to: product sales, sending solicitation emails, earning product badges, or donating cookies/nuts to the military.
- Girl, troop and/or Service Unit must be in good standings with the council.
- Girl, troop and Service Unit will only be allowed one request each per membership year.

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There is a maximum payment from the GSEF for the two different request designations. They are as follows:

1. Troop Request
 - a. Request for full Troop (majority) activity
 - b. Request for individual girl from their troop
2. Service Unit Request
 - a. Request for Service Unit
 - b. Request for Juliette

For Individual Girl Requests: The amount will be no more than 50% of the cost, but not to exceed \$300 per request. (Individual event, not with her troop)

For Full Troop and Service Unit Requests: The amount will be no more than 50% of the cost, but not to exceed \$300 per request. There is an exception for Troop events/activities that have a per participant fee, the payment will be 50% of the cost, but not to exceed the amounts listed below:

- For Daisies and Brownies payment not to exceed \$25 per girl.
- For Juniors and Cadettes payment not to exceed \$50 per girl.
- For Seniors and Ambassadors payment but not to exceed \$100 per girl.

Grant requests for events scheduled/sponsored by GSofSI Council (events listed on GSofSI website)

- Troops can request funds for their entire troop or individual girls to attend GSofSI Council sponsored programs/events, day camps, and resident camps found on the GSofSI website.
- Requests can be made for Camp Torqua reservations.
- Request for GSofSI council events/activities will be reviewed by Customer Care at time of submission to help with placement in event.
- Troops and service units can request funds for equipment rental.

Grant requests for events not scheduled/sponsored by GSofSI (not listed on GSofSI website)

- Request must meet the GSLE outcome girl experience.
- Requests should be submitted at least 6 weeks before event.
- Troops and service units can request funds for non-council troop camping reservation fees.
- Troops can request funds for events and/or activities for a day event.
- Troops and service units can request funds for equipment rental.
- Requests for events and/or activities while on an out of council trip. Lodging, travel accommodations, and meals are not reimbursable. **The troop must submit a signed copy of the Intent to travel form with this request.**
- Funds can be requested for an All-inclusive trip. (e.g., In-residence trips out of council, Trout Lodge, etc.) **The troop must submit a signed copy of the Intent to travel form with this request.**
- Funds can be requested to cover adult chaperones fees for troop travel. In the Traveling with Girl Scout manual, it provides you the Adult-to-Girl Ratio. Only the necessary adults as defined by the manual will be covered.
- Requests for funds for a GSUSA Destination trip can be made. These requests will be reviewed and determined by the committee on a case-by-case basis.

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- Payment for activities/events not scheduled/sponsored by GSofSI (not on GSofSI website) will be determined by the committee on a case-by-case basis. The committee will determine if payment will be made up-front or reimbursed after the event with proper documentation (i.e. copy of receipt, proof of attendance in the form of photos) submitted within 30 days of the event. Reimbursement can be expected within 30 days of submission of documentation.
Note: Payment for activities/events not scheduled/sponsored by GSofSI (not on GSofSI website) for an individual girl event will be made to the girl’s troop (service unit for a Juliette).
- If funds are received for a troop, service unit or troop request for an individual girl and the event is not held or the girl does not attend, they will not be eligible to receive funds from the GSEF during the next membership year. Exceptions are possible with a valid reason as determined in the sole discretion of the committee.

Grant Requests Rejected

- Requests that do not meet the GSofSI safety requirements.
- Incomplete requests or Council Form submissions needed (e.g. Out of Council Trip forms).
- Requests for girl and/or adult membership fees.
- Requests for supplies, material, or meetings spaces.
- Requests not submitted in a timely manner.
- Requests for lodging, travel, and meals.
- Requests by troops or service units who have outstanding debt to the Council.

Updates to the Policies			
Date Approved	Approved by	Updated by	What was updated
8/5/2021	GSEF Committee	GSEF Committee Policies Task Group	Original document
10/26/2021	GSEF Committee	GSEF Committee Policies Task Group	-Direct payment to girls is not allowed -Reviewed by Council attorney & auditors
12/8/2021	Board of Directors	GSEF Committee	- Verbiage to Participation
8/23/2022	GSEF Committee	GSEF Committee	- Added Equipment rentals
8/31/2022	Board of Directors	GSEF	- Added Equipment rentals