

Clarification on Eligibility & Restrictions

Troop and Girl Standing:

- What specific factors determine if a troop, service unit, or girl is in “good standing” with the council? The girl, troop, and/or service unit must be active & registered member(s), background check approved, and in good financial standing with the council.
- Does this include financial reporting, participation requirements, or other criteria? Yes.

Participation Requirement:

- If a troop or girl only sends solicitation emails but does not sell products, does that count as participation in the product program? Yes.

One Request per Year Rule:

- If a troop makes a request and it is denied, does that count as their one allowed request for the membership year? The one request per year rule applies only to an approved request. If a request is denied, another request may be submitted either for an alternate event or in order to meet any requirements for which the prior submission was denied.

Case-by-Case Reviews:

- What criteria does the committee use to decide if an event not ran by GSofSI is eligible for funding? The committee reviews the event and evaluates it against the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) model. The event is considered to see if it provides experience for any of the four pillars: STEM, Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship. Each submission for an event not conducted by GSofSI is voted upon for approval by the volunteer committee members.

Funding & Coverage

Troop & Individual Limits:

- Can a troop receive both a troop-wide grant and individual grants for the same event? Yes, if this is how the girl would like to use her individual request.

Mixed-Age Troops:

- If a multi-level troop (for example, Brownies & Juniors) applies for an event, how does the per-girl funding cap apply? The request form is structured to accept multi-level troops. Within the request form, you must provide the number of girls by each program grade level. Each level will be funded based on the policy amounts granted for that program grade level. (Daisies & Brownies are offered a maximum of \$25/girl; Juniors & Cadettes are offered a maximum of \$50/girl; and Seniors & Ambassadors are offered a maximum of \$100/girl.)

Troop Camping:

- Does the policy cover council-approved campsite fees and non-council campsites the same way? [Yes](#).
- Equipment Rentals: What types of equipment rentals are covered (such as camping gear, activity supplies)? [On Girl Scout properties, equipment rentals that are covered are included on the Camp Equipment Request Form and Camp Torqua Reservation Site.](#)

Grant Amounts & Limitations

All-Inclusive Trips:

- Are there specific types of all-inclusive trips that would not be approved (for example, amusement parks, all-inclusive resort stays, cruises)? [All-inclusive trips where the primary focus is one of the four pillar activities of the GSLE, such as an exploration/camping event, would be permitted. An all-inclusive trip, such as a National Geographic cruise, would be covered. A Disney Cruise or Carnival Cruise would NOT be accepted, as the primary focus of the cruise is not one of the four pillars; however, an excursion on the cruise could be paid for by the fund if it meets the pillar requirements. Examples of these include tours to historic sites, nature walks, trails, etc. The GSEF does not pay for travel, lodging, or transportation.](#)
- What qualifies as an all-inclusive trip? Are entrance fees for amusement parks or educational tours included? [An all-inclusive trip is defined as a trip with bundled costs, but the trip's primary focus must meet one of the four GSLE pillars: STEM, Outdoor, Life Skills, and./or Entrepreneurship. If the entrance fee to the park or educational tour falls under a badge or patch program, the entrance fee will be refunded.](#)

Application Process & Payment Timing

Submission Timeline:

- How long does it typically take for a grant request to be reviewed and approved? When should we expect to receive an answer? [The committee review GSEF applications twice per month. Most of these applications are approved in the 4-6week timeline. However, if an application is questioned by the committee, a request for more information will be sent to the Troop Leader for more clarification. This can add additional time for the approval process; however, the original date of submission does not change, so your application will not be denied for supplying this requested information past the 6-week deadline.](#)

Urgent Requests:

- Is there an expedited process for last-minute opportunities that arise within the 6-week submission window? [Applications must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the event. No applications or requests will be considered after the 6-week deadline.](#)

Payment Method:

- If the committee decides that funding must be reimbursed after the event, does the troop need to cover the total cost upfront? [This is entirely a troop decision; your troop could request parents pay the cost initially and reimburse the parents from your troop account after the troop receives the GSEF funds, or your troop can use the troop funds and await reimbursement from the GSEF request.](#)

Payment Timing:

- If funds are approved for an event, the event has transpired, and all documentation has been provided to council for reimbursement, how soon will the money be disbursed to our account? [Reimbursement to your troop or service unit account can be expected within 30 days of submission of documentation.](#)

Reimbursement Process:

Can you explain what documentation is required for reimbursement? [Any and all receipts for components of the approved event should be submitted.](#)

Denied Requests:

If a request is denied, do you provide feedback on why it was denied? Can we reapply with modifications? [Yes and yes; On a rejected request, feedback is sent back to the applicant on why the request did not meet the GSLE standards. The troop can then make amendments to their original request and resubmit for approval. The original submission date of the first application will be used to verify if the application was submitted prior to the 6-week deadline.](#)

Policy Enforcement & Exceptions

Event Cancellations & Future Eligibility:

- The policy states that if a troop or girl cancels or does not attend an event, they lose eligibility to apply for GSEF the next year. What situations would qualify as a “valid reason” or an exception to this rule? [If a person does not attend the event and does not submit a cancelation of their request, they will then be considered ineligible to apply for GSEF the following membership year.](#)
- If an event is canceled by the host organization, can the funds be used for an alternative event? Does the leader need to reapply? [If the event is not attended by the girl, troop, or service unit, the fund will not be dispersed and they can reapply for an alternative event. An alternate application should be submitted.](#)

Chaperone Funding for Trips:

- If a troop takes a trip but requires additional chaperones due to a girl’s disability or special circumstances (for example, foster children who cannot stay overnight without foster parent), can GSEF be used to cover the costs of these additional adults above the safety-wise standard? [Special circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis. If extra chaperones are needed for examples such as the ones mentioned above, please apply for extra funds and be specific as to the reasoning for your request.](#)

Ready to submit your request? Fill out the GSEF Application form for [Girls](#), [Troops](#), or [Service Units](#).

Want to read more about GSEF? Check out the [page on our website!](#)