

## Group Hardship Fund

6<sup>th</sup> Dagenham Scout Group is committed to providing opportunities for all young people to engage with scouting in accordance with the policies of the Scout Association, including the Association's Equal Opportunities Policy. To this end we provide a Hardship Fund, which is administered in accordance with the guidelines set out below:

- ⚔ Limited to youth members under the age of 18 years
- ⚔ Grants are available for events and camps
- ⚔ Grants are available to support purchase of uniforms
- ⚔ Grants are available for any other purpose considered worthy of support by the Group Scout Leader, benefitting a youth member

The Group understands the sensitive nature of these matters and will treat all applications with the upmost confidentiality.

### Limits

Per event: Maximum grants of £100 per individual, or 50% of costs whichever is the lower amount.

Per financial year: £200 per individual

Requests that exceed £100 will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may require external funding.

Applicants may be asked to provide evidence of financial hardship for beneficiaries (see 'Scout HQ Guidance' below). No information is ever shared, and all applications are treated in full confidence.

### ***Scout HQ Guidance on "financial hardship" [From "How to apply for a Grant" April 2016]***

- ⚔ Those in receipt of one of the following are eligible to apply;
- ⚔ Free school meals (no applicable for Beaver age Children)
- ⚔ 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\*
- ⚔ Working tax credit
- ⚔ Universal Credit
- ⚔ Housing Benefit
- ⚔ The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

### Application Process

Applications must be made at least 8 weeks *before* the event/camp takes place by speaking to your section leader, giving details of the financial assistance required, the amount or percentage they can afford of the camp or trip and evidence of financial hardship as per the list above.

The Group Scout Leader will then discuss with one of the Group Management Team, which consists of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. As well as meeting the criteria above other factors will be considered such as attendance and good attitude to scouting. Once a decision is made the applicant will be informed of how much the group can award.

A record of each successful award shall be kept on file but shall only be shared with the GSL, Chair, Secretary & Treasurer. The Executive Committee will only be told the total figure awarded during that financial year and if this exceeds the amount in the approved budget then can determine to increase the amount available in the fund or put on hold all applications for the remainder of that financial year.