



Helping Hands Grant

Girlguiding Gloucestershire is aware that there are girls and young women in the county who are not able to take part in some Guiding activities, or join a unit in the first place, because of their family's financial circumstances. We are also aware that in some areas a whole unit can be disadvantaged because of the demographic of the local area it serves. We have therefore made a Helping Hands Grant available to support these members.

Applications can be made by a Unit Leader for an individual young member, or on behalf of a unit as a whole where the unit is in an area of deprivation or there are extraordinary circumstances.

Examples of members we may be able to support include (but are not limited to):

- A member from a low-income family
- a member with a disability or additional need
- a young parent (aged under 18 years) where the parent is a young Guiding member
- a young member in care
- a unit in an area of deprivation
- a young member who has suffered a close family bereavement
- a member with poor mental health

Examples of what helping hands grants might be applied for (but are not limited to):

- Paying unit subscriptions to allow a young person to join a unit
- Paying for uniform
- Paying towards a camp/holiday fee to allow a young member to take part
- Paying for extra adult costs to allow a young member with a disability or additional need to take part in an activity (eg paying for a carer's camp fees)
- Paying for an adult volunteer to attend a trip or residential where they are supporting girls.

Before applying to the County for a Helping Hands Grant, a unit must already have requested support from the District and Division. Applications will not be considered where a District and/or Division have the funds to support the individual/unit.

For unit applications, the unit must also be able to demonstrate that they have also sought to receive funding from other funding streams. For example, claiming Gift Aid, donations from the local Lions Club or Round Table, fundraising, and so on.

Applications will need to be accompanied by a copy of the unit's last accounts summary (signed by an independent reviewer) and their latest bank statement. Unit applications can only be made once per calendar year. Individual applications may be made twice in a calendar year, but these should be for different areas of funding. For example, application 1 might be for uniform and subs to allow the young person to join the unit and application 2 might be a request for support to allow them to attend a camp or holiday.

Applications are kept in confidence by the County Commissioners, Chair of Finance and the Treasurer.