



Hardship Policy

Adopted by the Trustee Board on the

Trustee Chair

Jessica Rayns

Group Lead Volunteer

Philip Burton

Date of Review

Every 3 years or after a significant event

Purpose of the Policy

The Scout Group and Board of Trustees (“the group”) recognise that families may from time-to-time struggle to manage the costs of living and we want to support in any way we can. Our Hardship Policy outlines the framework

for handling cases of financial hardship with the aim of supporting any young person whose participation in Scouts is at risk, whilst ensuring that the group maintains sufficient financial stability.

Our Hardship Policy aims to provide various means of financial support including but not limited to subscriptions, uniform, camps, trips and other events, in a fair and consistent way.

How to apply for support

Any parent who is facing **significant** financial difficulty that may compromise a young person's participation in Scouts must complete a Hardship Request form available on the South Leicestershire Scout's website – Broughton Astley page.

Once complete it should be sent to the Group Lead Volunteer – phil.burton@broughtonastleyscouts.org.uk

Requirements

There are two criteria that both need to be met for a young person to be eligible for hardship funding:

- 1. The young persons family is experiencing financial hardship**
The Board of Trustees will usually deem a child in receipt of Free School Meals as appropriate evidence of financial hardship. It will however, consider requests from families not in receipt of Free School Meals on a case by case basis if sufficient evidence of financial hardship can be provided.
- 2. The young person demonstrates a regular commitment to Scouting**
The Board of Trustees will expect Scout Membership and regular attendance to be evidenced as a minimum.

Review Procedures

Three Trustee Board members will review any hardship requests received, based on the information provided in request form.

If, following the review, the above requirements are agreed to be met and it is also agreed that the financial hardship could affect a child's participation in an activity or the group, the Trustee Board members responsible for reviewing the request will recommend that appropriate financial support is given. This may involve delaying payments due until an acute issue has been resolved, agreement to make payments in instalments, partially or completely subsidised payments.

In more serious cases, or for larger events, the group may look to apply to external bodies for support with fees for your child – usually this will be the Leicestershire Scouts Rudkin Trust.

The group recognise that the nature of applying for financial support, and the details provided in a request are sensitive, and will therefore take utmost care to ensure they remain confidential. Only the Trustees involved in the review will know of the case, the identity of the applicant, or the outcome of any support given. The Board of Trustees will, however, receive non-identifying details of the number of current hardship requests and the amount of financial support, if any, given directly by the group over a given period.

Funds will not be given directly to a claimant's bank account, with any support given by the group or another body transferred internally.

The decision of the Trustees responsible for reviewing a request is final and there is no recourse for appeal.