



**Scouts**

**Grafton**

**Opportunity Fund**

Last Updated: January 2025

## **Description and Purpose**

Grafton District Scouts are 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.

The District team wish to promote adventurous, innovative, high-quality Scouting events that are accessible to all. The Opportunity Fund endeavours to ensure that cost is not a barrier to young people and leaders in accessing these transformational experiences or Scouting.

To this end we provide an Opportunity Fund, which is administered in accordance with the guidelines set out below.

## **Funding Resources**

The fund was established in 2021 with the initial sum of £1,000. Each Financial year 0.5% of Membership Subscriptions are added to this to ensure it is topped up. This fund is capped at a maximum of £2,500.

## **Eligibility**

A member may be eligible if any of the following apply to immediate family/carers:

- Total household income level below £20,000
- Young carer (recognised by relevant authorities) January 2020
- Looked after (in care) child
- Free school meals or pupil premium funding
- Income Support
- Income-based allowances
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Disability Living Allowance (related to the young person, parent or adult volunteer)
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

We will also consider other applications should a young person's family not immediately fit into criteria set out above and the young person would significantly benefit from the receipt of money from the opportunity fund.

If significant funds are applied for, the application will be subject to a more stringent vetting process and may require evidence to be provided to the Trustee Board for consideration.

Funds may be requested for Scouting activities only.

## Application

Applications can be made via recommendation by a Section Leader to the Grafton District Trustee Board by submission of the application form.

This can be by:

- **Post** to GDS Opportunity Fund, C/O 36 Dean Close, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 3WA
- **Email** to [treasurer@gdscouts.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gdscouts.org.uk)
- **Web-form** located at: <https://gdscouts.org.uk/opportunity-fund>

If posting the application form, please download this from <https://gdscouts.org.uk/opportunity-fund>. The preferred method of application is via the web form.

## Decision

The District Trustee Board will consider applications to the fund at each of their meetings. If a request is time sensitive, the decision may be made for the trustees to discuss the application and come to a decision via email. The applicant and recommending Scouting adult will be informed of the Trustee Boards outcome within 5 working days of the decision being made.

Funds will be paid directly by BACS to the Young Person's Scout Group / event organiser from the District Scout Council. No monies will be paid to families directly.

## Re-Application

Young people within the District are welcome to apply to the Opportunity fund as regularly as they deem support to be required. Applications will be reviewed by the Trustee Board to establish continued validity.

## Confidentiality

The information we obtain about individual hardship cases is likely to be highly personal and is treated in strict confidence. This is controlled by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Policy as adopted by Grafton District Scouts:

<https://gdscouts.org.uk/faq/data-protection-gdpr/>

## Document Change Log

Version	Date	Change	Author
1	August 2021	Document Creation	Hardship Sub-Committee
2	January 2025	Updated references following transformation. Renamed to 'Opportunities Fund'	District Trustee Board