

Benevolence Policy

Version: 2 Last Updated: 23 November 2021

Introduction

The group will endeavour to ensure that no young person in our catchment area (i.e. where Biggleswade Group is the nearest Scout Group to a child's home) should be unable to participate in Scouting due to the financial situation of their family.

The Scout Group will provide financial assistance to allow young people to attend Biggleswade Scout Group. This assistance could be help with subscriptions, uniform, visits and residential experiences and can be for a proportion or for full funding as appropriate.

The Scout Group has set up a hardship fund to assist those having difficulty and the budget for this is set by the Executive Committee.

How will it work?

Section Leaders will:

- Make parents/guardians aware that they can be approached in confidence if financial assistance/ flexibility is required.
- Ensure that when asking for money from parents/guardians that they are aware of the fund.
- Meet with the parents/guardians and assess the situation with them and confirm how the group can help, over what period the assistance should continue and what form the assistance can take.
- Discuss with the Group Scout Leader and Treasurer. The details will be kept confidential.

What will it cover?

Membership Subscriptions

Membership fees are the main area in which financial assistance will be given, primarily through a reduced termly fee, generally still remaining sufficient to cover the annual membership fee, although in exceptional cases this may be further reduced.

Uniform

There is a bank of pre-owned uniform, which can be offered to families in need. Excess uniform can be provided to new members for a donation and these donations will be ring fenced to off-set benevolence payments.

Residential Experiences and Visits

The Group will support young people in need, to attend residential experiences, visits or trips offered to others within their sections. This may be through applying for grants or from group funds.

Parents/Guardians may be asked to pay an amount towards the event.

Any request for funding will be brought to the Executive but the details of the family will be kept confidential.