

Sponsorship Fund Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the sponsorship fund available supporting 'Scouting For Everyone'.

Applies to

All Leaders including Trustee Board Members and Parents / Guardians of children involved with 2nd Acomb (St. Stephen's) Scout Group.

Summary

2nd Acomb Scout Group 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. To support this aim, the Group provides a Sponsorship Fund, and this policy details the way in which it is administered.

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Version control

Version	Author	Role	Release date
1.0	Becky Lincoln	Group Scout Lead Volunteer	01 September 2023
1.1	Russell Odom	Deputy Chair	01 March 2024
1.2	Becky Lincoln	Group Scout Lead Volunteer	07 July 2025

Applications

Applications can be made to the Sponsorship fund by those families who find themselves in a period of financial hardship or in receipt of one or more of the following:

- Free school meals
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit

Applications may be made by parents/carers of members of 2nd Acomb Squirrel/Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer sections (aged 4-17) and by members of 2nd Acomb Scout Network (aged 18-25).

The sponsorship fund administration team comprises of the Group Scout Lead Volunteer, Treasurer and Chair. They will assess each case on its merits taking account of the personal/financial circumstances of the applicant, the benefit to the young person, how actively the young person participates in Scouting and the extent to which the young person and the applicant actively support fundraising for the group.

Applications for support must be made in writing to the Group Scout Lead Volunteer; the form is available on the Group website or on request to the GSLV. All such applications will be treated confidentially, and the information provided in the application will not be disclosed except as necessary to administer the Sponsorship Fund in accordance with the below guidelines and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

Categories of Available Support

Support is available for monthly fees, for an agreed period only. We may not cover the whole cost of the fees, but a reduction may be made for the agreed period time period.

Grants are only available for events involving nights away (e.g. camps, sleepovers), in line with the Scouts Association's policy of providing opportunities for each young person to spend nights away each year. A maximum of one grant is available per young person per year for a night's away event, of up to £250.00 or 50% of the total cost of the event, whichever is the lowest. Applications for multiple siblings for the same event must be discussed with the Group Scout Lead Volunteer prior to completing the application.

Support is available towards section uniforms (Squirrel, Beaver, Cub jumper or Scout/Explorer shirt), which may be a donation towards the total cost of the item, sourcing an item from the donate and share system, or covering the full cost of the item. Reimbursement for uniforms will be processed after a successful claim form has been completed and receipt for the item received.

Support is available to cover investiture costs (necker and group badges); these are issued once in the Group and can only be claimed for once per young person.

Any payment agreed for camps/event/subs will be directly from the Group funds to the camp/event/subs fund.