

# GRANTS FOR GIRLS AND ADULTS

Girl Scouting is open to all girls and adults regardless of their ability to pay. To encourage participation, Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys budgets money to help girls and adults who need financial assistance to participate in Girl Scouting. This budget is funded through the annual Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity, the Fall Product Program, the annual Family Fundraising Campaign, The United Way, contributions, and bequests.

Grants For Girls and Adults should be applied for when all other sources of income for an individual member's participation in Girl Scouting have been exhausted. An effort needs to be made to ensure that girls have an opportunity to participate even though their family cannot or chooses not to financially support the girl in the program.

## Grants for Girls and Adults are available for:

- Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) annual membership dues (currently \$12 per girl or adult)
- Essential GSUSA grade level books (Journey books, handbooks, award books, leader/facilitator guides)
- Essential GSUSA girl uniform components: sash, tunic or vest; GSUSA and River Valleys ID set; troop numerals; and membership pin
- River Valleys required adult volunteer training sessions
- River Valleys council-sponsored program events
- River Valleys summer resident camp sessions
- River Valleys council-approved summer day camp sessions
- GSUSA destinations
- Troop dues for individual girl/s within a troop (new girls and/or new troops only) Grants are not available for troop, group, or regional Girl Scout trips.\*

\* *Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity and Fall Product Program proceeds are the primary income sources for troop activities, supplies, and general operating costs beyond the first year; troop dues are typically a first-year income source.*

## Application for a Grant for Girls and Adults

A girl may apply for a grant on behalf of herself. Additionally, parents/guardians and Girl Scout adult volunteers may apply for a grant on behalf of a girl.

- To apply for a grant for annual membership dues, no application form is needed; just complete the applicable information on the membership registration form when registering as a member.
- To apply for a grant for grade level books, girl uniform components, adult volunteer training sessions\*\*, council-sponsored program events\*\*, and troop dues, complete the 2009-2010 Grants for Girls and Adults Application form. Incomplete applications may be returned and may result in processing delays. The application form can be found in the River Valleys' *Council Reference Guide* and website.
- To apply for a grant for summer resident or day camp sessions\*\*, fill out the form that is included with summer camp registration materials.
- To apply for a grant for GSUSA *destinations*, contact the staff liaison for Grants for Girls and Adults at 800-845-0787 or [registration@girlscoutsvr.org](mailto:registration@girlscoutsvr.org). Ask for the special grant application form for *destinations*.
- Complete a separate grant application form for each person needing a grant.

\*\* *Grant applications for adult volunteer training sessions, council-sponsored program events, and summer resident and day camp sessions should accompany the registration form for the training session/event/camp session. If the grant application is to cover only a portion of any fee due with registration, the remaining payment/s must be included to process the registration.*



### Mail completed 2009-2010 Grants for Girls and Adults Application forms to:

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys  
Attention: Grants for Girls and Adults  
5601 Brooklyn Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

### How are Grants for Girls and Adults funds allocated?

Grant applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the following criteria, which is established by a committee of Girl Scout volunteers and staff:

- Grants are available for any currently registered member of River Valleys.
- Grant funds are limited, and are allocated based on financial need.
- Additional factors to be taken into consideration are: Is there an investment/contribution from the girl/parent/guardian/adult volunteer? How have parents/guardians supported the girl and her troop? Does the girl participate in the Cookie Program Activity and Fall Product Program? Has a grant been received in the past? What sources of funding have already been exhausted?
- Troops should strive to be self-sustaining as described in *Safety-Wise*. It is expected that troops plan and budget for troop activities and participation in council-sponsored program events, including paying for all or part of the cost for troop members and adult participants. Grants are rarely allocated for the full cost of a troop activity or council-sponsored program event.
- Troops may request grants on behalf of one or more members. Troops that have not turned in an annual troop finance report must do so to be eligible for grant funds, with the exception of first year troops.

### What happens after a Grant for Girls and Adults is requested?

- Allow three to four weeks for a response.
- Grants for annual membership dues are automatically forwarded to GSUSA with the membership registration form.
- Grants for program grade level books and girl uniform components are issued in the form of a voucher to be used to purchase the items from a River Valleys' Girl Scout Shop.
- Grants for adult volunteer training sessions, council-sponsored program events, *destinations*, and summer resident and (staff-led) day camp sessions are issued in the form of an internal funds transfer by council staff. Grants for volunteer-led day camp sessions are issued in the form of a check made payable to the day camp.
- Grants for troop dues are issued in the form of a check made payable to the troop.
- River Valleys will not reimburse grantees for purchases made or fees paid prior to grant allocation.

### Questions about Grants for Girls and Adults

If you have questions about the application, availability, allocation, etc., contact council staff at 800-845-0787 or [registration@girlscoutsrv.org](mailto:registration@girlscoutsrv.org).

If you are a troop leader who needs assistance supporting a girl/family in applying for a grant, contact your local membership specialist.

For more information on troop financing, refer to GSUSA's *Safety-Wise* and the *Blue Book of Basic Documents*, as well as River Valleys' *Council Reference Guide* and website.