

**INFO** Financial assistance is meant to be supplementary. Parents are encouraged to pay a portion of the registration dues when possible. This form should be submitted at the time of registration. Leaders should fill out this form for each girl or adult requesting assistance and have parent/guardian review and sign the Opportunity Fund Philosophy and Guidelines printed on the bottom this form. Download forms at [www.sdgirlscouts.org/forms](http://www.sdgirlscouts.org/forms). Please keep a copy for your records. Questions? Contact us at (800) 643-4798

**TROOP/LEADER**

Leader ..... (.....) Phone .....

Troop/Group (if applicable) ..... Service Unit ..... E-mail address .....

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**Assistance needed for:**

Girl:  Daisy     Brownie     Junior     Cadette     Senior     Ambassador     Adult

Name of applicant ..... Grade .....

Name of parent/guardian (if applicant is under 18) .....

Reason assistance is needed .....

I am requesting Opportunity Fund assistance for \$12 Girl Scouts of the USA registration dues for first year membership.

Family contribution \$..... Total amount requested \$.....

**OPPORTUNITY FUND PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDELINES**

**Philosophy**  
Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council (GSSDI) is committed to ensuring that all girls can participate in Girl Scouting, regardless of socioeconomic status. Financial assistance is a part of our council's continuing investment in leadership experiences for girls. No girl will be denied access to Girl Scouting for financial reasons.

The Opportunity Fund provides confidential, need-based financial assistance to individual Girl Scout members. Funds help cover costs associated with basic supplies and troop/group activities and events.

**Guidelines**

- Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council reserves the right to determine who qualifies based on need. A committee will review applications and grant funds granted based upon need and available funds.
- Troops should strive to be self-sustaining with budget planning as described in *Safety-Wise*, page 26. Girls learn to plan ahead and be self-sufficient when they work with a troop budget. Troops/groups should save and/or plan money-earning projects to cover activity expenses and membership/troop fees. If a troop does not meet its financial goals, it should adjust the activities or timetables.
- Troop/group leaders should ensure that the amount requested is reasonable and in line with the economic conditions of troop/group members. When planning and budgeting for activities, troops/groups should keep in mind the cost of planned activities, the members' ability to pay and the troop's money-earning potential. Opportunity Funds should not be used to cover costs a troop is unable to handle. For example, if most or all members of a troop request financial assistance to participate in a troop activity, it indicates that further troop planning is needed. Opportunity funds are meant to be supplementary, and may not cover 100 percent of any request.
- Activities and events must contain Girl Scout Leadership Experience program values to qualify for assistance.

**Assistance qualifications**

- Financial assistance is only available to individual girl and adult members, not troops.
- Applicant must be currently registered with Girl Scouts of the USA.
- Applicant's troop/group must have submitted an annual troop finance report.
- Applicant's family must have cleared any outstanding balance owed to council.
- Adults may apply for financial assistance for council-sponsored adult classes or troop/group activities when their participation is required to meet *Safety-Wise* guidelines.
- Financial assistance for Girl Scouts of the USA membership/registration is only available for the first year of membership.
- Requests for retroactive or reimbursement funds will not be considered.

**Application process**

- Each applicant must complete a separate application.
- Only fully completed applications are reviewed. Incomplete applications will be returned.
- Applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the activities/events for which the applicant is requesting financial assistance.
- The troop/group leader works with the applicant or applicant's parent/guardian to complete the application. (Parents of independently registered girls may complete the application.)
- The troop/group leader (or parent of an independently registered girl) submits the application to GSSDI.
- Processing takes up to four weeks.
- Applicant/leader will be notified when a decision is made.

**Approved requests**

- Checks, vouchers and/or requested materials will be mailed to the troop/group leader. To minimize shipping costs, vouchers for use at Council stores may be issued in lieu of materials.
- When assistance is granted for council-sponsored events, amount granted will be credited to any balance pending; no check will be issued.

I have read, reviewed with the leader/parent and understand the above philosophy and guidelines for the Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council Opportunity Fund.

Leader signature and date ..... Parent/guardian signature and date .....