

Financial Partnerships

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Financial Partnership (FP)?

Financial Partnerships are available to registered Girl Scouts for assistance with uniform basics (tunic, vest or sash, troop numbers, Council ID), Journey books, Service Unit and Council events and Camperships. Because GSCTX is a non-profit business, FP funding is limited to budgeted funds available. The FP budget may be exhausted at any point in a membership year. FP awards for high valued events such as, Council sponsored trips and Camperships, will be limited up to \$400 per membership year. (Note: An applicant may not qualify for the full \$400 amount)

2. Who is eligible for Financial Partnership?

To be considered for FP, each girl must be registered for the current membership program year and have participated in both Council sponsored Product Sales events (Fall Products and Cookie Sales). (Note: For girls registering after one or both product sales events, FP awards will be reduced based on participation. See section "FP – Key Points to Remember.") Each applicant must sell a minimum of 10 units (Nuts or Magazines) of Fall Products, and a minimum of 48 boxes of Cookies to be eligible for FP.

3. Adults are not eligible for Financial Partnership.

4. What are the Financial Partnership deadlines/meeting dates?

There are no deadlines for turning in applications. Please allow 2 - 4 weeks for processing and notification. **NOTE: Applications received less than 2 weeks before an event will not be processed. When applications are submitted after an event has passed or if your payment is made prior to submitting an FP application, no FP amount is awarded. For a copy of the "Financial Partnership Application", go to the GSCTX website and click on the FORMS tab at the top of the page. Click on the OPTIONS button near the bottom of the page and check the "Financial Management" box. Click on SEARCH and a list of all financial forms will appear below. The Financial Partnership Application will appear in this list.**

5. How will I know if Financial Partnership was awarded or denied for my child?

Applicants will be notified by letter via US mail. All responses will be sent to the parent or guardian listed on the application. For Service Unit events, a copy of the response will be sent to the Service Unit Director. Financial Partnership cards indicating the approved award amount will be issued with letters to girls approved to receive FP.

6. Are FP available for the DESTINATIONS travel program?

The DESTINATIONS program is a GSUSA sponsored program and not a Council event. Therefore, FP are not available for this program. However, GSCTX does have a limited budget for both scholarships and financial assistance for girls interested in DESTINATIONS.

7. Reimbursements are not given.

FP will not be used to reimburse for events, Camperships, uniform basics (tunic, vest or sash, troop numbers, Council ID) or Journey books previously paid for by the applicant.

Financial Partnership—Key Points to Remember

All FP applications must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. Be sure to fill in all spaces and answer all questions on the application. Incomplete applications will be returned to the parent/guardian of the applicant for completion. This will delay the processing of your application.

Please print clearly and list your complete mailing address (include apt number, P.O. Box number, etc.). Illegible handwriting may delay the processing of your application, and incomplete addresses may cause your response card to be returned to the Council office. A separate application should be completed and submitted for each girl applying for a FP.

FP award amounts are calculated using a scale system; therefore, it is not necessary to include letters or explanations of special circumstances with your applications. Applicants who join Girl Scouts after one or both of Council sponsored product sales events for the current membership year may apply for FP. FP's awarded to girls who register after both Council sponsored Product Sales events, will be reduced by 25%.

Financial Partnership Application Process

The FP are reviewed and evaluated in the following manner:

1. All FP applications are received in the GSCTX Austin (Kodosky) Service Center office and stamped with the date they are received.
2. The FP applications are reviewed for completeness. Incomplete applications are returned to the parent or guardian. This will delay the processing of the application.
3. Registration for the current membership year is verified for each applicant. Applicants not currently registered will be sent a denial response in the mail.
4. Once registration is verified, applications are forwarded to the Accounting and Product Programs department to verify that the applicant or applicant's family has no outstanding debt with the Council. Applicants with any outstanding debt will be sent a denial response in the mail.
5. FP applications are reviewed and award amounts are determined.
6. All applications are returned to the Customer Care office for processing.
7. FP cards are printed for each applicant, listing the award amount and/or items awarded. Cards are addressed to the parent/guardian of the applicant and mailed out. For Service Unit events, the Service Unit Director will receive a council check for the awarded amount.
 - The Financial Partnership cards are award coupons and are to be used as a form of payment when registering for or purchasing uniform components. **Misplaced, lost or expired cards will not be replaced or honored.**

Financial Partnership – Camperships

Only one FP Campership is awarded per girl, per membership year.

If the camp program awarded is filled, the applicant may use the FP award towards another GSCTX camp program of equal value. The balance due must still be paid for that camp as well.

FP will not be considered or awarded for camps held at another GS council.

Financial Partnership – Books/Materials

Tunic, Vest or Sash, Council ID set, Troop #'s, Membership Pin, Insignia Tab Flag and a Journey Book are the only items awarded for FP. Earned recognitions **such as Patches, Badges, Daisy Petals, Pins and other uniform items not listed are not eligible for FP assistance.**

FP cards issued for uniform items must be used before the expiration date. If you are unable to come to a GSCTX Retail Shop, FP cards for uniform items can be mailed to the Shop and your order will be filled and shipped. You will need to talk to the Shop personnel in advance to get shipping cost information. Please list sizes where applicable. **Expired cards will not be honored, in which case the applicant must reapply.**

NOTE: The card must arrive in the shop before the expiration date. When you receive your order, please leave all tags on the articles of clothing until you have confirmed that the item(s) fit or are the correct items. Merchandise without tags cannot be exchanged or returned.

Financial Partnership – Events

Financial Partnership is considered for council events in which you register through the Council Activities Manager's office. A council event where registration is not handled through the Council office is not considered an FP award item, for example, the Children's Museum.

If more than one event is being requested, **please list each event on a separate form.** A list of events attached to an FP application will not be accepted. Each applicant must fill out a new form for each event(s) requested.

Do not attach event registration forms to the FP forms when submitting. Please keep the Event Registration Form until you receive a response. If you receive an award letter, attach the Financial Partnership card and your payment for the balance due to your Event Registration Form and then submit to the Activities Manager. ***For questions regarding event registration, contact the Activities Manager at 800-733-0011, extension 111.***

Award amount(s) will be reduced based on the applicant's awards received for previous events.