At Girl Scouts, we are always thinking about the future and how we can best prepare the next generation of girls to take the lead every day. Our Movement has such a rich history of forward thinking and innovation—and now in our second century, as we advance the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place, it continues to be important that we keep pace with an ever-changing world.

As the first and largest girl-led organization in the world, we continue to evolve our unique leadership program and implement new technologies and ways of work to enhance the Girl Scout experience for girls, volunteers, and parents. To ensure we have the resources to support this work, the National Board of Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has decided to increase the annual membership fee to $25, starting October 1, 2017, for both girl and adult members.

Girl Scouts is a membership organization that is dependent on these dues to continue our important work. Every dollar of membership dues go directly to our national organization, GSUSA, and covers the cost of fundamental services supporting the Girl Scout Movement. These services include GSUSA’s research and continued investment and development of enhancements to girls’ program experiences in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), entrepreneurship, the outdoors, and life skills, as well as providing accident insurance for Girl Scout activities. Membership dues also help fund resources, training, and protection of the Girl Scout brand. Additionally, dues assist in covering the cost of implementing new technologies, such as the Volunteer Toolkit, to improve the Girl Scout experience for girls, volunteers, and parents.

Girl Scouts of Central Texas is committed to ensuring that all girls, regardless of financial means, can fully participate in our Girl Scout program. If you have any questions, or would like to provide us with feedback regarding the membership dues increase, please visit www.gsctx.org/contactus to contact the Customer Care team.

FAQs

Why are dues increasing?
This increase allows the funding of critical services that support the Girl Scout Movement – sustaining and developing exceptional leadership programs, as well as implementing digital innovations and new technologies to enhance girl and volunteer experiences nationwide. Additionally, as a youth-serving organization, Girl Scouts must constantly examine how it is meeting the needs of its customers. GSUSA is committed to delivering best-in-class services and support for all councils and to providing thousands of volunteers with the relevant resources, tools, and training they need to best serve today’s girls.

Is Girl Scouting still a good value?
Absolutely! As the first and largest girl-led organization in the world, a Girl Scout membership is one of the most valuable investments anyone can make in a girl’s life. This dues increase not only brings the cost of joining Girl Scouts more line with the exceptional value of its programming and the unique leadership opportunities for girls not available through any other organization, but also in line with similar
organizations like Boy Scouts of America. It is also still far less expensive than the average YMCA membership, sports league, or performance academy.

**How will this increase help girls?**
The additional funding received through membership dues will support our vision to serve as many girls who want to be Girl Scouts as possible—regardless of their means, neighborhood, or family background. With enhanced program experiences in STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor, and life skills, girls are empowered to lead and succeed in the industries of tomorrow. At the same time, they also help improve their communities, develop their own advocacy and service projects, and tackle local and global issues such as poverty, illiteracy, and pollution. It will also enable us to create and implement digital innovations and technology to enhance the girl experience and provide a safe digital space for girls to share, explore, connect, and learn.

**How will this increase help volunteers?**
The additional funding received through membership dues will help us ensure that volunteers – the lifeblood of Girl Scouts and the critical ingredient to the success of our mission – receive the support and resources they need to deliver a high-quality Girl Scout experience to even more girls. Significant investments are being made to advance the resources, training, and technology needed to deliver an exceptional girl and volunteer experience. From streamlining the recruitment process and reducing the number of girls on waiting lists, to the continued development of our digital Volunteer Toolkit, which makes maintaining a troop easier than ever, these investments allow volunteers to spend more time with girls and less time on administrative tasks.

**Does the increase in membership dues apply to girls and adults?**
Yes. The annual membership dues will increase from $15 to $25 for both girl and adult members.

**Will financial assistance be available?**
Definitely. We are committed to making Girl Scouts accessible to all girls and, therefore, financial assistance will continue to be available to those that qualify.

**Will the increase affect the membership dues for lifetime members?**
The GSUSA National Board has brought forth a change to lifetime membership dues which will be voted on in October 2017. The National Board proposes that lifetime membership dues be set at $400 with a discount rate of $200 for alumnae ages 18 to under 30. The current lifetime membership is $375 or $195 for graduating Ambassador Girl Scouts.

**When will the increase take effect?**
The increase in membership dues will be implemented for the 2018 membership year, effective October 1, 2017. It will begin to be collected during Early Bird registration starting in April 2017.

**Will the membership dues change each year?**
The annual membership dues are determined by GSUSA’s National Board of Directors and there is no current plan for additional increases.