

Summer Camp Financial Assistance (Campership)

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida is committed to ensuring every girl has the opportunity to participate in Girl Scout Summer Camp Program. Although funds are limited, the council makes every effort to provide enough support so no girl is denied access to the summer camp experience due to lack of funds.

In order to be considered for summer camp financial assistance, please read the following guidelines and complete the attached Summer Campership Application. Incomplete applications will be returned and failure to follow the process may significantly delay an application or result in denial.

Overview

Financial assistance funds are supplementary, and the council encourages each family, troop and service unit to contribute as much as they can toward the cost of Summer Camp. Individuals should seek assistance from the troop and service unit prior to applying for financial assistance.

The council-sponsored product sales program are partly structured to provide funding for the Girl Scout experience and troops should budget for troop operating expenses above all else. Participation will be verified to ensure applicants are actively taking part in the program.

Awards are based on financial need and/or special extenuating circumstances at the girl level, not the troop level. Applications must be completed by the individual and any applications submitted on behalf of the troop itself will be returned.

At times, a family may not qualify for financial assistance under the income guidelines, but may have extenuating circumstances that the council will consider when determining eligibility and award amounts. In that case, the circumstances must be clearly explained for consideration.

Financial assistance can only be awarded to a girl one time per membership year (October 1 – September 30). A summer camp financial assistance is treated different from uniform & membership assistance, therefore Summer camp can be applied for even if you have been awarded these assistances. Families who have received financial assistance in previous membership years will not be guaranteed financial assistance for future membership years.

Income Verification Documentation

When submitting an application, income verification documentation must be provided to demonstrate the applicant's financial need.

Examples of acceptable income verification documentation:

1. Unemployment notification letters/receipts
2. Disability/social security statements
3. Food stamp/public assistance award letters/receipts
4. Public housing acknowledgments
5. Last four paystubs of 2022 or 2022 Tax Return (Please black out social security numbers)

Please note the most recent copies of any income verification documentation should be included. Applicants are required to submit at least one type of income verification documentation listed above. All information is kept confidential and in a secure location. The council does not require income levels to be demonstrated, only proof of financial need as evidenced by other forms of public assistance. Do not send copies of bank statements, investment statements or W-2 forms.

Campership Application Instructions

Please do not submit the campership application until you have registered for a summer camp session. Registrants will be responsible for paying the initial deposit to secure camp reservations as well as the difference between the amount awarded and the cost of camp. The deposits differ by camp type, so be sure to check the event details. The deposit is refundable if the request for financial assistance is denied or does not meet the need.

Registering online:

1. Proceed to the online registration system through www.gswcf.org.
2. Register for the camp session of your choice.
3. Pay the applicable deposit associated with the camp.
4. Click here to complete the Campership Application and submit required documentation to <https://form.jotform.com/220063998230152>

Review Process

Received applications with submitted documents will be reviewed and processed, which may take up to 7-10 business days (starting March 2023). The council receives a large amount of applications each year and each one must be individually reviewed; please wait the allotted time before contacting the office for a status update.

Depending on the outcome of the review process, a letter will be emailed to the applicant communicating one of the following:

Approval – Full amount of the requested award has been approved, and any associated vouchers will be included.

Amended Approval – Financial assistance was awarded, but at an amended amount. Details will be provided and any associated vouchers will be included. Applicants may appeal the decision as explained below.

Denial – Financial assistance was denied for a specific reason(s), and an explanation will be given. Applicants may appeal the decision as explained below.

Incomplete – part of the application was determined to be incomplete or insufficient, and the applicant will need to provide further clarification. Applicants may resubmit the application with the requested information.

Appeals Process

If an application is denied or a reduced amount awarded, an applicant may have an opportunity to appeal the decision under certain circumstances. An applicant may appeal a denied application by returning the original, completed application, an amended application with supporting documentation, and a letter explaining the reason for the appeal. If an award is made for an amended amount, an applicant may appeal the decision by submitting a letter of appeal to the contact information provided in the award letter.

In both cases, once the Council has ruled a second time, no further appeals may be made on an application.

For questions about the Summer Camp Financial Assistance Guidelines, please contact Camp Reservations, campreservations@gswcf.org.