

The Fund is a discretionary fund made up of 10% of the net proceeds from the annual bonfire and is available to support young people and leaders who are experiencing financial hardship. Finances should not be a barrier to being a Scout so the Fund Policy is designed to ensure that all members within 2nd Heald Green can continue to participate in Scouting opportunities, regardless of any changes in their circumstances.

The fund is not aimed at financing whole membership or entire trips, but regarded as supplementary discount to the total membership cost.

### **What do we fund?**

The Fund is to be used primarily for providing financial support to young people in Scouting, aged up to 18. Examples include discount of membership cost, purchasing of uniform, activity/event attendance costs and other justifiable Scouting expenditure, at the discretion of the 2nd Heald Green Trustees.

The beneficiaries must be from families within the group and in financial hardship.

Any member of 2nd Heald Green with a particular financial need can apply.

Financial need is defined as the difference between a particular cost, and what the applicant can afford to pay or raise.

The typical maximum funding per person is £60 per financial year, but more may be awarded at the discretion of the Trustees and information provided.

2<sup>nd</sup> Heald Green wishes to prioritise those in financial hardship and uses the financial acceptance criteria employed by many Education Authorities for free school meals. This provides an independent known benchmark as a guideline that can help make the best judgment of financial hardship. Priority will be given to individuals in financial hardship, or who fulfil one or more of the criteria below:

- In receipt of free school meals;
- In receipt of Universal Credit;
- Income Support or Working Tax Credit;
- In receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Recent redundancy;
- Young carer and Looked after children;
- Convalescence after illness;
- Disability;
- Recent death of parent;
- Young person in part time work (with less time to fundraise); and
- Young person in need of additional support in the form of a carer.

### **Commitment to Scouting**

The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to their group. The following is a minimum:

- Membership of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heald Green for 2 months; and
- Been paying membership fees and are up to date.

### **Process and award of funding**

Once an application is received, they are all reviewed and you will be notified prior to the end of December if you have been successful or not.

The email will confirm your new monthly payment for the remainder of the financial year January to August, you must continue to pay the monthly membership fee at the discounted rate.

For applications of uniform etc then the group would purchase these directly and no discount would be applied to the monthly membership fee.

No cash payment is made, it is by way of discount on the annual membership fee, done by reducing the monthly payment.

Confidentiality Information relating to individual support cases may be highly personal and as such will be treated with the strictest of confidentiality, in line with the Scout Association's GDPR Policy. Any application and follow up discussion of a support case will be recorded in confidential minutes.