

Benevolent Fund Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the fund is to ensure that no young person is excluded from scouting or from participating in scouting activities due to parental hardship.

Awarding Committee

The awards would be in the gift of the Trustees of the North Leigh Scout Group - or whosoever is appointed by the Chair to deputise on any occasion. The Chair will have the casting vote.

Application Guidance for Applicants and Awarding Committee

Any grant is not necessarily designed to provide full reimbursement and the amount granted to each individual would be at the discretion of the committee based on perceived need and the realisation that such assistance would benefit both the young person and the charitable purpose of the Group.

The Benevolent Fund will be promoted on the Group website (with a link to the application form).

In each case, the applicant should give brief details of the reason for the request explaining why the applicant requests a contribution from the Group.

Claims should be made on the proper form and, then submitted to the Group Chair, via the relevant Section Leader. Should parents/guardians wish to discuss a sensitive matter in complete confidence, they should contact the Group Chair directly. Contact details can be found on the Group's website:

<https://www.1stnorthleighscouts.org.uk/contactus/>

Claims can be for a contribution towards termly subscriptions, uniform or towards camp or activity fees. It is anticipated that contributions towards uniform, camp or activity costs will be 'one-off' assistance and should be applied for as they occur.

It is likely that ongoing awards may be required towards termly subscriptions – parents/guardians may be required to re-apply each term or confirm circumstances haven't changed.

Timeframes

Applications may be made at any time and the Awarding Committee will convene to consider each request on receipt - this can be face to face, by phone or email.

The Awarding Committee will report back on anonymised grants, through the Group Treasurer's Report at each AGM.

Accounting Process

The relevant section will need payment from the fund in respect of their portion of on-going termly subscriptions or the full cost of the camp/activity when an award is granted. The Group Treasurer will transfer the relevant amount and keep the Section Leader informed.

Funding and ongoing Sustainability

When the balance in the Benevolent Fund dictates, the Executive Committee will consider setting aside an amount from any surplus generated from General Funds in the previous financial year. However, additional funding may be obtained via a variety of routes, as approved by the Group Executive and could include but is not limited to:

- An allocation of any surplus generated in general funds by normal activities each financial year.
- Ring fencing of any residue funds from restricted grants, which don't have to be returned to the supplier of the funds.
- An additional levy on the subscription fee charged to members each year.
- Exploring the opportunity to apply for any grants that may be available to supplement our Benevolent Fund. For example, local charities or Children in Need, as this will reduce the cost to the Group.
- Specific fundraising within the group, for example through events and appeals.