

Northamptonshire Scouts Opportunities Fund

Purpose

1. The Hardship fund, also known as the Northamptonshire Scouts Opportunities Fund, is a discretionary fund to support members within Northamptonshire County Scouts to participate in further Scouting opportunities to enable them to gain valuable Scouting experience regardless of their background.

Planning

2. Northamptonshire Scouts Opportunities Fund will be ring fenced as a restricted fund from:
 - a. Grants from external funding and grant awarding bodies, approached on behalf of Northamptonshire County Scouts specifically for this purpose. All grants and awards will be duly acknowledged, and reports provided to the grant making bodies as requested.
 - b. Donations made specifically for this purpose.
 - c. Any surplus money from County events - determined once the final accounts are presented and agreed by the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee for re-distribution of surplus specifically for this purpose.
 - d. Monies specifically agreed and allocated to this fund as part of Northamptonshire County Scouts annual budgets and approvals.

Monitoring

3. The fund will be administered by the Chair of the F&GP Committee and successful funding to be agreed through delegated authority by the Chair of the F&GP with notification to the F&GP Committee at each committee meeting as a standing agenda item.
4. All application receipts will be acknowledged regardless of funding decision.
5. Should the individual cease their membership with Northamptonshire County Scouts in advance of the funding being used for the requested purpose, the funding is to be returned to Northamptonshire County Scouts for redistribution.

Determining Costs

6. Grants of up to 25% of costs (up to £200 per year per individual) can be awarded, subject to the following:
 - a. Applications completed in full using the Northamptonshire Scouts Opportunities Fund Application Form.
 - i. Applications for young people must be completed by GLV, Unit Leader or a Team Leader/Lead Volunteer/Event Lead within the District.
 - ii. Applications for adult members must be completed by the individual.
 - b. The application is made for a named individual (Multiple applications for the same event may be submitted; however, a separate application form is required for each individual).

- c. Multiple applications may be made for a specific individual in any financial year (1st April – 31st March); however no more than 25% of total event costs to attend the specific event or £200 maximum across all applications will be awarded within each financial year.
- d. The named individual is a current member within Northamptonshire County Scouts.
- e. The application can be made at any time within 18 months prior to the event date (applications for past events will not be valid).

7. Applications can be made to support individuals for:

- a. Camp or event fees
- b. Costs to undertake other Scouting activities.

8. Applications for payment of membership subscriptions will not be valid as this is to be supported within the Scout Group.

9. Applications for funding in relation to World Scout Jamborees will not be valid due to existing funding from Northamptonshire County Scouts.

10. Successful payments will only be made directly to the Scout Group/Unit or District by BACS transfer. No payment will be made to individuals.

11. Successful funding is specific to the named individual and the named purpose/event listed within the application, should the individual cease their membership with Northamptonshire County Scouts or withdraw from the event for any reason, the GLV, Unit Leader or a Team Leader/Lead Volunteer/Event Lead specific to the event must make contact with the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to notify them asap and await advice on the return or redistribution of funds.

Policies which should also be referred to:

County Events Financial and Budget Policy

Amendment History

Date	Detail
February 2022	Approved by Northamptonshire F&GP sub-committee
September 2024	Removal of funding application periods Extension for applications up to 18 months prior to event date Delegated authority given to Chair of F&GP Updated roles in line with transformation
October 2024	Inclusion of if a successful applicant ceases membership or withdraws from the event