



1st Cheddington Scout Group

Benevolence Policy

Introduction

This policy is intended to support the Group Scout Leader when involving young people from families with severe financial difficulties.

It is our policy that *no young person in our catchment area (i.e. where 1st Cheddington is the nearest Scout Group to a child's home) should be unable to participate in Scouting due to the financial situation of their family.*

The Scout Group will provide financial assistance to allow young people to attend 1st Cheddington Scout Group. This assistance can be with subscriptions, uniform, visits and residential experiences and can be for a proportion or for full funding as appropriate.

Operation

The exec will find sufficient funds at the request of the Group Scout Leader. The Group Scout Leader will meet with the family and assess the situation with them. The GSL and the family should agree; how much money the family can pay (the exec paying the difference) and over what period the assistance should continue (i.e. the date at which we review).

The name of the family will be revealed to the Group Treasurer. The GSL may need to discuss the name of the family with the Section Leader and the Group Chair. Anyone aware of this situation must treat it with absolute confidence.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership fees are the main area in which financial assistance will be given, primarily through a reduced termly fee, generally still remaining sufficient to cover the annual membership fee, although in exceptional cases this may be further reduced.

Uniform

By talking to parents of young people moving between Sections, the Group will build up a bank of pre-owned uniform, which can be offered to families in need. Excess uniform can be sold on to new members, with any profits being ring fenced to off-set benevolence payments.

Residential Experiences and Visits

The exec will look to identify grants to support young people in need to attend a minimum of one residential experience per year. Working with Section Leaders when budgeting for residential

experiences, grant givers and Group funds, we will ensure that young people who cannot afford to pay will be able to attend a minimum of one Residential Experience per year.

Visits will be considered for partial funding by the scheme when the visits are key to the section activities.