



Group Policy

Youth Member Subscriptions

Frequency and Amount

1st Grasby operates on a term basis that mirrors school terms in the local community. Subscriptions are due at the beginning of each term. The current term's fee is £35 per young person; this includes newly joining members.

Termly subscriptions should be paid by half-term at the latest and leaders should encourage parents to do so.

Methods of Payment

The preferred method of payment is through Online Scout Manager (OSM). Parents/careers will need to set up an account, after which subs will be taken through a direct debit system. Parents/carers may choose, however, to pay using cash or cheque (made out to 1st Grasby Scout Group). In these cases, a receipt should be given for the payment and a manual payment OSM entry made accordingly. This OSM entry keeps the Gift Aid submission up to date.

Due to the Gift Aid submission requirements, subscription payment in lieu of reimbursement for personal expenditure for events, activities or procurement of equipment is not permitted.

Overdue Subscriptions

Fees not paid by half-term are deemed overdue. In the first instance, section leaders should politely and diplomatically approach the situation with the parent/carer in confidence. Most often, payment will follow soon after, but in some cases where a Section Leader suspects a degree of financial hardship, then a new approach needs to be taken.

Financial Hardship Cases

At 1st Grasby, we will try and aid families who have difficulty in raising the money to pay subscriptions. Some parents may feel embarrassed to admit they have difficulty in paying. We must reassure them that their children will not be forced out of Scouting due to hardship and we have methods and means to assist. Each case must be taken on its own merits as some family's hardship may be temporary, whereas others, their hardship is longer term. Any suspected cases must be handled delicately and any details must be referred to the GSL who with the advice of the Executive Treasurer will approve transfer of funds from the GSL's hardship fund. In all cases, a solution must be agreed with the parent/carer and should include the amount of subsidy and a time frame for when the agreement should be reviewed. This time frame period should not be any longer than one year (3 terms' payments) but may be subsequently renewed if appropriate.

Review of Fees

Any changes in the amount of subscriptions will have to be proposed by the Executive Committee and subsequently agreed at an AGM or EGM by a majority vote of the Scout Council members.