

Who Pays for What in Girl Scouting

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More than 43 million females over a span of 90+ years have benefitted from their membership in Girl Scouting. Reaching this many members has required an investment of time and money and we would like you to know what is being invested for a girl--perhaps your daughter--today and for many more girls in the future.

In 1912, the cost of providing Girl Scouting to one girl for one year was \$2.00. In 1997, membership dues were \$6.00, however, G.S.U.S.A. expended \$10.37 for every girl and adult member. Your Girl Scout council additionally expends another \$100.00 plus to provide the direct services to members in your area. The family will also expend money on their daughter's behalf. Let's look at what is provided for the invested dollars.

Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. funds the development of program materials, sponsors wider opportunities and leadership development institutes for girls and adult learning opportunities, and provides technical assistance and consulting services to Girl Scout Councils.

A girl and her family are responsible for:

- **Annual membership dues.** Girl Scouting is a national organization, when the fee of \$10.00 is paid a girl becomes a member of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. The \$10.00 membership fee is sent directly to G.S.U.S.A. Your daughter's local council, nor troop, does not keep any part of the membership fee.

- **Troop/group dues.** Girls in troop/groups will decide, with their leader, an amount of money needed monthly to support their troop activities.

- **Uniforms and handbooks.** A girl and her family may choose a variety of Girl Scout uniform components for her age level. Depending on how fast a girl is growing, an age-level uniform may serve for up to three years. Program handbooks are also used for the same three years.

- **Activities.** Families may be asked to provide additional funds for a specific activity, such as roller skating, or day or resident camp. The cost of these special activities is also shared by the Girl Scout council, the troop/group, and possibly local community groups.

- **Cookie sale.** Families support this effort by giving permission for their daughters to participate, purchasing cookies for their own families, and ensuring that the monies collected for the cookies are given to the troop/group. The troop/group keeps part of the money and transmits the rest to their Girl Scout council office.

- **The SHARE Family Giving campaign.** Families and other supporters of Girl Scouting are asked to make a contribution to the local council to support, extend, and maintain Girl Scout opportunities for girls.

A Girl Scout council benefits from the proceeds of the cookie sale, United Ways, and gifts and contributions from individual and corporate supporters to provide:

- **membership dues** for girls who cannot afford the annual membership dues.

- **leadership training** for troops/groups and additional program materials.

- **uniforms and handbooks** for girls who cannot otherwise acquire these items.

- **activities and events** that troops/groups or individual girls can attend. A fee for an activity or event will cover the direct costs and other costs would be provided from the council's resources.

Girl Scout councils also:

- own, lease, and maintain properties for specialized program delivery.

- provide learning and career opportunities with other community organizations.

- develop membership opportunities to unserved communities and populations.

- provide knowledgeable and skilled staff to support volunteers in delivering Girl Scout program.

This interdependent "investment" relationship has supported the development of the Girl Scout movement to this day.

