

GIRL SCOUTS OF WASHINGTON ROCK COUNCIL, INC.
201 Grove Street East; Westfield, NJ 07090-1656
Ph: 908/232-3236 Fax: 908/232-2140
E: gswrc201@hotmail.com

Girl/Adult Financial Aid (GAFA) Application Guidelines

The purpose of the Girl/Adult Financial Aid (GAFA) Fund is to assist girls and adults with membership dues and program activities. Funding from GAFA shall be made available to girls and adults on the basis of individual financial need and the cost involved.

1. GAFA Funds provide financial assistance and are allocated solely on the basis of need and of funds available in the council budget. **Girls and adults may request assistance for membership dues and only one program activity per membership year.**
2. Financial assistance may be requested for the following categories:
 - Membership dues
 - Council Sponsored Summer Activities and Programs
 - Wider Opportunities
 - Service Unit Encampments

Since troops and groups have opportunities for fund raising to help defray costs of their program events, activities and encampments and are given the lowest priority. Approval for these GAFA requests is dependent upon the council budget and financial resources.

3. Decisions regarding GAFA funds are made by a volunteer team working in conjunction with a Washington Rock staff member.
4. It is expected that every **Girl Scout and her parent(s) will contribute** to the best of their financial ability.
5. While the total cost of an event or program activity is taken into consideration, **grants will not be approved to cover more than 50% of the costs.** Payment plans for balance due can be made available at the request of the applicant.
6. Only **Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council members are eligible to receive GAFA funds.**
7. All GAFA applications will be kept in a confidential file at the office in Westfield.
8. Any Service Unit Manager, Troop/Group leader or other interested adult may apply for GAFA funds for a girl member who may be in need.
9. **The council office must be notified if a girl or adult does not participate in an event or activity for which she/he has received financial assistance.**
10. Since GAFA allocation approvals are made by a volunteer team, **all requests must be submitted six (6) weeks prior to the payment deadline** so that the committee will be able to handle requests in a timely manner.
11. A letter of approval will be sent to the parent/guardian or leader who requested the funds. In the case of a Community Encampment, both the leader and the parent will be notified.
12. All GAFA funding is dependent upon the amount of money available in the council budget. This will vary from year to year.

