

Fundraising Policy

Ensure that you fundraise only within your own Group, District or County/Region. District and County/Regional Commissioners must be kept fully informed of any fundraising taking place and of approaches to local companies, individuals or organisations. Approaches to national companies or organisations should only be made with the approval of Bradford North District Executive with the potential for referral to the Association's Fundraising Manager at Gilwell Park. If fundraising events are held within neighbouring districts consultation with the relevant District Executive should be carried out.

It is important when raising money or obtaining gifts in kind that we do not upset existing arrangements for the support of local Scouting, and therefore close liaison should be maintained with your District and/or County/Regional Commissioner.

If someone does offer support you should always write to thank them straight away, and remember to write a short report and thank them again when you come home.

Other basic guidelines for fund raising are as follows:

1. Always ask; don't demand support.
2. Never turn down offers from companies of goods or services in kind rather than just money - these can be resold or raffled to turn them into cash.
3. Try to get support from your local newspaper - if you can get publicity, you are more likely to get support from local industry and commerce.
4. Remember that the way you go about your fundraising will reflect on you and The Scout Association. Make sure that nothing you do, design or write will cause deception or offence.
5. Fundraising events should always be planned and advertised well in advance, and be carefully budgeted to ensure that a loss is never made at an event. Possible events include:
 - Art and craft sale
 - Disco
 - Barbecue
 - Fashion show
 - Beetle drive / Bingo
 - Quiz Nights
 - Raffles
 - Cheese and wine evening
 - Sponsored almost anything (for example walk, abseil, etc.)

Make certain that your fundraising activities comply with the law. This is especially important with regard to raffles, treasure hunts and collections. Local authorities can give guidance on any licences needed. Insurance is equally important for many fund raising activities which may involve members of the public. You may also wish to consider insuring major events against failure or bad weather.

A number of specialist trusts and charities have grants available for specific types of projects. Your local library will have guides to grant-making trusts in the reference section. Your Scout District or County may administer a fund of their own from which money may be available. Some Local Education Authorities are able to help, and local trusts such as Rotary and Lions Clubs can also be approached. Often such funding leads to requests for a presentation after the event, which can be excellent for public relations. Spread the net of your fundraising efforts as widely as possible.

Chambers of Commerce will provide lists of local firms and companies which may be prepared to give support for an individual participant or provide sponsorship for a particular item of equipment. Larger companies may even sponsor the children of employees.