



## **Graduating Senior Funds Extension Guidelines**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of many programs and activities that 12<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scouts had planned for Spring/Summer 2020: extended travel, bridging-to-adult ceremonies, camping, Gold Award projects, and other Girl Scout activities. In response to this situation, GSSNV will allow a one-time extension for 12<sup>th</sup> graders to use Girl Scout funds to reschedule cancelled activities into the next membership year.

Please note, this is a one-time extension offered because of the unprecedented nature of our current situation. The intent is to support the continuation of Girl Scout activities that had been planned prior to the onset of the pandemic, not support the planning or financing of new or additional Girl Scout Activities.

This guidance applies to troop funds and Juliette program points . Please note, the deadline to use Troop Funds or Juliette program points pertaining to this document is 9/30/2021.

### **Financial Considerations**

- The deadline to use troop funds will be 9/30/2021. This extension is to meet the needs of troops/groups or girls who had plans for Spring/Summer2020 that were interrupted due to COVID-19. The deadline to use funds will be 9/30/2021.
- Once the final activity has been completed, the troop should submit their disbandment form by 9/30/2021. Any remaining funds may be donated to the troop's Service Unit.
- After 9/30/2020, these young alums may not participate in the Fall Product or the Cookie Program, and they may not do any additional money-earning to finance activities planned for the 2020-2021 membership year.
  - The single exception to this guideline is money-earning for Gold Award projects: funds intended to be used toward a Gold Award project must be raised and used by December 1, 2020. Girls must follow the GSSNV

Girl Money Earning Activity Guidelines. Please see further Gold Award information below in “Gold Award Guidance”.

## **Membership**

- All participants must maintain a current membership. Graduating girl members may take advantage of the “young alum” discount by purchasing a Lifetime Membership or purchase an adult annual membership for the 2020-2021 membership year. Adults working with the young alums must also have an active membership.

## **Use of Funds**

- All activities and use of funds must be directly tied to the mission of Girl Scouts and activities must be approved by GSSNV. All funds “must be used for the purposes of Girl Scouting” (Ownership of Assets Policy, Blue Book p. 22). Funds may not privately benefit a girl.
- Mixed-grade and multi-level troops/groups who have money-earned together should continue to make group decisions on use of funds.
- All standard safety and risk management procedures should be followed for group activities, including Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity Checkpoints and Overnight Activity Forms.
- Young alums participating in activities during the 2020-2021 membership year should be treated as Ambassadors. Guidelines and girl to adult ratios for Ambassadors should be followed for alums.
  - One exception: For group overnight travel that includes both girl members and young alums, steps should be taken to provide separate sleeping arrangements for the girl members; the young alum members, and the adult members.
- If the group plans to take an extended trip, the standard recommendations to purchase additional insurance stands.

## **Gold Award Guidance**

- GSSNV is offering a 3-month deadline extension from September 1 to December 1, 2020 for girls who are graduating from 12<sup>th</sup> grade and who seek to earn the Gold Award this year. These Girl Scouts will bridge to adults officially on October 1, 2020 and without this extension, would be no longer eligible to earn the Gold Award.

- Funds intended to be used toward Gold Award projects must be raised and used by December 1, 2020.
  - If a girl's troop has disbanded, but she wishes to raise additional funds for her Gold Award project, funds must be deposited to the council, to be held in an approved bank account that is registered to the council's EIN. Members are not allowed to hold Girl Scout funds in a personal bank account.

## **Disbanding Troops**

For some troops, rescheduling activities for next year may not be practical. Troops may have girls leaving the state or who are unsure of their plans for Summer 2021. For these troops, disbanding, and finding a rewarding way to deploy funds they earned on behalf of Girl Scouts, may be their best path forward (see below "Recommendations for Troops including 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Who Intend to Disband"). Troops should have an honest discussion about the possibility of using their funds next year, and possibly revisit the conversations over the next few months to make final decisions.

- There are many ways that girls can still spend funds and give back to their community and/or to Girl Scouts in the current membership year. Examples of ways girls might use funds before 9/30/2020:
  - Design and execute a Take Action project-perhaps one that addresses the current pandemic
  - Purchase "young alum" Lifetime Memberships at the special discount price of \$200 for graduating girls
  - Donate to the GSSNV scholarship/financial aid fund for families in need of help
  - Donate funds to your local Service Unit to develop girl programs in the area
  - Reach out to council to develop a scholarship fund for an activity you are passionate about (e.g. a camp scholarship fund)
  - Donate to another Girl Scout fund (e.g. the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund)

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