

How to apply for a Big Idea Grant

Before applying to the Big Idea for funding, think about these questions:

- What do you want a grant for? How will it benefit local Birmingham Scouting?
- Will your project provide a sustainable benefit for Scouting moving forward?"
- Is the activity or item you are applying for likely to be approved by the Big Idea Sub Committee? (See the lists of what the Big Idea will and won't fund if you aren't sure)
- Have you included the date of the event on your application form?
- If your application is for a specific event, is your start date at least 4 weeks after the application deadline (detailed on the application)?
- Are you applying for payments you have already made? (The Big Idea does not provide retrospective funding.)
- Have you checked if local Group or District funds or other sources are available?
- Where will additional (matching) funding be found?
- Is the Development Grant Board able to assist financially?
- Is the Section, Unit, Group or District co-educational?
- Does the Section, Unit, Group or District have a functioning Executive Committee?
- Does the Section, Unit, Group or District have a bank/ building society account for Grant payment? (The Big Idea grants can not be paid into personal bank accounts)
- The funding application from the Big Idea should be for values between £100 and £5000
- If the amount you require is under £300 then we may well refer the application to The Pathfinder Lodge to their Grant Scheme – however please apply and we will decide on this redirection

Is your DC aware and supportive of this project and the application you are making?

Once you have found the answers to these questions please download and complete the application form. To help us deal quickly with your application, please make you sure you have satisfied all of the steps in this checklist.

Complete the application form as fully as possible according to the guidelines provided:

- Please provide where possible a breakdown of costs and order items in a priority order
- Only apply for future expenditure (retrospective funding will not be awarded)
- Check if the amount applied for can be match funded
- Activities start dates must be at least 4 weeks after the close date.
- Late applications will not be considered and will be included in the next application round if applicable.
- Attach any evidence to support the application
- Keep a copy of the form for your own records
- Be ready to provide any additional information if it is requested

Applications must be submitted to headquarters@birminghamscouts.org.uk. Please allow at least 4 weeks for the application to be processed.

Once an application is received you will receive an acknowledgment by email or post from the Big Idea Sub Committee. **If you do not hear from the Big Idea Sub Committee within a month of submitting your application please contact us to follow up on whether it has been received.**

Items which may be approved

Development planning event

Leadership & Management project

To purchase capital equipment to promote Scouting
Preparing young people to be active citizens
Adult/youth local recruitment project
Working with minority communities project
Contributing to social change
Opening new Group in area of community development/deprivation
Uniform costs
Support for member with 'special or individual' needs
Other personal/group need
Scouting Training/Experiences for young people
Purchase of equipment for Scouting
Sea or Air Scout Training for adults
To purchase equipment for Sea and Air Scouting
Non-Wood Badge Training Events
First Aid Training Events
Trainer Training Events
Young Leader Training Events
Executive Committee Training Events
Training Workshops for COMPASS and programme online
Minibus Training (D1+E and MiDAS)
Equipment to support Training
Activity Assessor Training
Technical Adviser Training
Permit Assessment
DofE Supervisor and Assessor Training
Mountain Leadership, Kayak/Canoe & Sailing Coach, Archery Instructor, Air Rifle Shooting Marshall
International Community Development Projects
Improvements to Scout buildings and facilities
Attendance at Moots
Higher Award support (Queen Scout Award, Explorer Belt & Scouts of the World Award)
Support for specific members in financial hardship to attend camps/events (not world jamborees)

Items which will not be approved

Grants are not provided for:
Membership Fees, local subscriptions or for non-members.
Purchase of land, buildings or property
General running funds of Sections, Groups, Districts
Utility costs of Scout buildings and facilities
World Jamborees
Attendance at Camps

Our Supporters of the Big Idea

We are indebted to a number of individuals and organisations who have and/or continue to provide financial support to The Scout Association – County of Birmingham so that we can distribute grants to support local Scouting. We very much thank them for their support and generosity.

Advice on individual 'financial hardship'

Birmingham County also manage funds to support uniform costs for individual members in 'financial hardship', something which can be a difficult subject to discuss with young people, parents and leaders. Both adult leaders and Young Leaders are eligible for this support.

Please apply directly to headquarters@birminghamscouts.org.uk

Evidence that can help you make best judgement of 'financial hardship' would be if a family is in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- an income-related employment and support allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs*
- Working tax credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Other National Funding - HQ Start up Grants for new Sections

Starting up a new section within your Scout Group is one of the best ways that you can provide more opportunities for more young people to join the adventure that is scouting.

Often, it is to allow young people who are on a 'Want-to-Join' list become new members, or to provide existing members the opportunity to move on to the next older age-group section. For whatever reason, there are some costs to do this and that is where a Section Start-up grant from Headquarters can help to get things going. The grants are managed by a body known as the Development Grants Board (DGB) who administers a range of grant funds to support local scouting.