



2018 Membership Dues Increase

In order to continue to evolve as the largest girl-led organization in the world, the Girl Scouts of the USA's (GSUSA) National Board has decided to increase the annual fee for both girl and adult members to \$25 for the 2018 membership year (Oct. 1, 2017 - Sept. 30, 2018). While this fee increase will impact many families, we know that a Girl Scout membership is one of the most valuable investments anyone can make in a girl's life. This additional funding means many more girls will have the resources and support necessary to learn, grow and lead.

Every dollar of membership dues is sent to GSUSA to cover the cost of fundamental services supporting the Girl Scout Movement.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Accident insurance for members participating in approved Girl Scout activities
- Technology improvements (online registration/renewal, Volunteer Toolkit, Digital Cookie, etc.)
- Program development
- Research, resources and training
- Services and financial support to councils

FAQ

Why are dues increasing? What is this money being used for?

As a youth-serving organization, Girl Scouts must constantly examine how it is meeting the needs of its customers. With the extra funding received from additional membership dues, Girl Scouts will be able to sustain and develop exceptional leadership programs, implement digital innovations to enhance the girl and volunteer experience nationwide, maintain services for 2.7 million members (1.9 million girls and 800,000 adults) and engage 59 million alumnae around the world. It will also enable GSUSA to continue to deliver best-in-class services and support for the Movement's 112 councils and to provide thousands of volunteers with the relevant resources, tools and training they need to best serve today's girls.

Where does the money go?

Every dollar of membership dues is sent to GSUSA to cover the cost of fundamental services supporting the Girl Scout Movement. Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) does not retain any portion of the membership dues.

Does the increase to membership dues apply to girls and adults?

Yes. The annual membership dues will increase from \$15 to \$25 for both girl and adult members.

When will the increase take effect?

The increase in membership dues will be implemented for the 2018 membership year, effective October 1, 2017. It will begin to be collected during GSEP's early bird registration (May 15-July 15, 2017).

How will this increase help girls?

Additional funding received through membership dues will support Girl Scouting's vision to serve as many girls who want to be Girl Scouts as possible, regardless of their means, neighborhood or family backgrounds.

Through enhanced program experiences in STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor and life skills, girls are empowered with the skills and entrepreneurial know-how to lead and succeed in the industries of tomorrow. At the same time, girls also help improve their communities, develop their own advocacy and service projects and tackle local and global issues such as poverty, illiteracy and pollution.

It will also enable GSUSA to develop and implement digital innovations and technology, such as the Digital Cookie Program, to enhance the girl experience and provide a safe digital space for girls to share, explore, connect and learn.

How will this increase help volunteers?

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Girl Scouts and are critical to the success of the mission in reaching girls and changing lives. Additional funding received through membership dues will ensure volunteers receive the support and resources they need to deliver a high quality Girl Scout experience and will assist in bringing Girl Scouting to even more girls.

Girl Scouts is making significant investments to advance the resources, training, and technology needed to deliver an exceptional girl and volunteer experience. Volunteers are now able to complete the recruitment process in a matter of days instead of weeks or months, and the number of girls on waiting lists has been significantly reduced nationwide.

The digital Volunteer Toolkit makes leading a troop easier than ever before, which means more time spent with girls and less time spent on administrative tasks. Volunteers can plan a whole year of impactful activities to ensure their girls receive the best Girl Scout experience possible.

Is Girl Scouting still a good value?

A Girl Scout membership is one of the most valuable investments anyone can make in a girl's life. It gives girls access to the largest girl-led organization in the world whose programming and unique leadership opportunities for girls are not available through any other organization.

Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Set ambitious goals and think about the future
- Be more financially literate and negotiate for themselves
- Advocate for herself and others
- Self-identify as leaders and take on leadership roles
- Practice empathy and emotional intelligence
- Care about (and take action against) social injustices
- Be more solution oriented and less likely to be a bystander
- Embrace new experiences and overcome failure

Girl Scouts can earn badges, participate in activities, join a troop, hike, camp and join the entrepreneurial skill-building cookie program, as well as explore careers in science and technology, travel the world and take on projects that transform their community.

Will the membership dues change each year?

The last increase occurred in the 2013-2014 membership year. GSUSA has not yet made a determination for future years.

Will financial assistance be available?

We believe that Girl Scouting should be accessible to all girls, therefore financial assistance will continue to be available.

Will the increase affect the membership dues for lifetime members?

Lifetime membership dues are currently \$375.00 and a special lifetime membership, at the current reduced cost of \$195.00 is offered to girls who are registered Girl Scouts at the time of their high school graduation.

Girl Scouts of the USA is considering the effect the increase will have on annual membership dues will have on the cost to become a lifetime member, and will make an announcement as soon as a decision has been made.

If you have additional questions, please [email us](#).