

Family Partnership F.A.Q's (Frequently Asked Questions) Answered

HOW DO I DONATE TO FAMILY PARTNERSHIP?

Donating to Family Partnership is easy. There are **five ways to make your gift**:

- 1) **On-line gift made with credit card**
http://www.gsgec.org/donors/donors_family_partnership.html
Or call Michelle Jackson Long at the Program and Training Center
- Credit card (\$25 minimum)
- Check payable to GSGEC-Family Partnership
- Pledge payments may be spread over 1 year (Gifts of \$100 or more).
- Cash

WHAT IS THE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM?

A great way to double or even triple your gift is through your employer's matching gift program. See page 19 for examples of companies who routinely match gifts to GSGEC. Ask your Human Resources or Payroll Office for your company's matching gift form and include it in your contribution envelope.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE DAUGHTERS IN MORE THAN ONE TROOP?

If you have already donated to Family Partnership through another troop or on-line, please check the appropriate box on the contribution envelope flap and fill in the other troop number. This way both troops will receive credit for your participation in the campaign.

DOES A SMALL GIFT REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

It is amazing how such a small amount can go such a long way. We'd like each family to please **consider a gift of \$25**; however, any size gift is appreciated. All donations are completely confidential. Only the Family Partnership Leadership team and Fund Development staff will open contribution envelopes. Please tell us if you wish to remain anonymous when making your gift.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF GIVING THROUGH UNITED WAY?

Some of you may work for an employer that offers a workplace giving campaign like the United Way. Giving to the United Way is a great way to show your support of GSGEC, but those **donations are not applied to the Family Partnership campaign**. 100% of your gift to Family Partnership goes to the council to help the girls, while only 88% of your contribution to the United Way goes to support Girl Scouting.

WHAT ARE THE OTHER WAYS THE COUNCIL RAISES MONEY?

The Cookie Program is a very important part of our funding and provides about 50% of the budget; but as the expense of delivering quality Girl Scout programs rises each year, we face an increase in the dollars that must be funded in other ways. Our income sources must become more diversified.

United Way funds have not kept up with our increased costs to deliver the Girl Scout program in recent years- in fact, United Way funds have decreased. Supplemental funding must come from other sources, including our Girl Scout Families.

Camping and other program fees never completely cover the expenses of Girl Scout programs. Typically, the actual cost is about 20% higher than the fee girls pay. Therefore, Family Partnership helps supplement these expenses.

Corporations and foundations donated over **\$90,000** to sustain School-based Scouting programs, Juvenile Home Outreach and an innovative program structure. Major foundations and corporations frequently ask about financial support from our membership when deciding whether to approve a significant grant. Your family partnership contribution is a vital influence on these and others in the community who are asked to support Girl Scouting.

HOW ARE THE GIRL SCOUTS ABLE TO PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A LARGE BUILDING?

The Girl Scout Program and Training Center was made possible by grants and donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses that contributed specifically to the capital campaign. No proceeds from Girl Scout Cookie program or United Way funding contributed to the construction of the Program and Training Center. Additionally, **any funds raised through Family Partnership support the annual fund and do not go to cover construction costs for the Program and Training Center**

I ALREADY GIVE MY TIME AS A TROOP LEADER. WHY SHOULD I GIVE TO FAMILY PARTNERSHIP?

Your gift of volunteer time as a leader is Girl Scouting's most valuable asset. Your additional support through Family Partnership will ensure that the program is financially secure and will continue to be affordable for every girl who wants to be a Girl Scout.

WE SPEND TIME HELPING OUR DAUGHTER SELL COOKIES. WHY ISN'T THAT ENOUGH TO HELP THE COUNCIL WITH EXPENSES?

The cookie program is not the only source of funds for Girl Scouting. As expenses and membership rise each year, we must prevent endangering the program with a deficit by seeking funds from additional sources. We cannot expect the girls to keep selling more products to make up the difference. Because parents realize first hand the benefits of Girl Scouting through their daughter's experience, we ask them to help fill the gap.

FOR A PARENT, GIRL SCOUTING ALREADY COSTS SO MUCH- TROOP DUES, UNIFORMS, AND EVENTS!

When compared to costs of other activities, the Girl Scout program is very low-cost and from any perspective, the lifelong positive impact is priceless. If a troop decides to participate in some events and trips that are more expensive, the girls can plan ways to earn more money so parents are not funding the activities. The cookie and the fall product programs are both ways a troop can earn money to pay these expenses. A uniform is not required for membership in Girl Scouts.

HOW DOES FAMILY PARTNERSHIP BENEFIT ME IF WE LIVE AN HOUR OR MORE AWAY FROM A SERVICE CENTER?

GSGEC provides the same services to outlying areas as to all areas of the council. Leaders receive training, parents and leaders receive mailings, staff members work closely with Girl Scout adults in the area; program and event materials for girls are created and supplied to troops and girls; and camping opportunities are available to all girls. In addition to the Kalamazoo Program and Training Center, we have a fully staffed office in Battle Creek.

HOW DOES A TROOP'S PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY PARTNERSHIP HELP QUALIFY THEM FOR HONOR TROOP?

The Honor Troop Program was established by GSGEC to recognize troops willing to take time and energy to make the Girl Scout program a more meaningful and varied experience. Troop participation in Family Partnership is among the requirement options for earning

Honor Troop Status. To qualify, each troop member's family must contribute \$25 or more per girl through an event or fundraiser that benefits Family Partnership. For example; a troop of 8 girls must contribute \$200 or more to Family Partnership to be able to apply this requirement toward the Honor Troop Program.