



## 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 approved an increase in the annual membership fee for both girl and adult members to \$25 for the next membership year (beginning October 1, 2017). While this fee increase will impact many families, we know that a Girl Scout membership is one of the most valuable investments that can be made in a girl's life. And 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, VTK, Digital Cookie, etc.)
- Program development
- Research, resources, and training
- Services and financial support to councils

### FAQ's

#### Why are dues increasing?

This increase allows the funding of critical services that support the Girl Scout Movement – sustaining and developing exceptional leadership programs, implementing digital innovations and new technologies to enhance girl and volunteer experiences nationwide, and supporting councils through services and investments.

As a youth-serving organization, Girl Scouts must constantly examine how it is meeting the needs of its customers. GSUSA is committed to delivering best-in-class services and support for all councils and to providing thousands of volunteers with the relevant resources, tools, and training they need to best serve today's girls.

#### Is Girl Scouting still a good value?

Absolutely! As the first and largest girl-led organization in the world, ***a Girl Scout membership is one of the most valuable investments anyone can make in a girl's life.*** This increase not only brings the cost of joining Girl Scouts more in line with the exceptional value of its programming and the unique leadership opportunities for girls not available through any other organization, but it is in line with similar organizations like Boy Scouts of America and is still far less expensive than the average YMCA membership, sports league or performance academy.

#### How will this increase help girls?

The additional funding of approximately \$0.83 per month received through membership dues will support our vision to serve as many girls who want to be Girl Scouts as possible—regardless of their means, neighborhood, or family background.

With enhanced program experiences in STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor, and life skills, girls are empowered to lead and succeed in the industries of tomorrow. At the same time, they 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 us to develop and implement digital innovations and technology—like our 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?**

The additional funding received through membership dues will help us ensure that volunteers – the critical ingredient to the success of our mission – receive the support and resources they need to deliver a high quality Girl Scout experience to even more girls.

Significant investments are being made to advance the resources, training, and technology needed to deliver an exceptional girl and volunteer experience. From streamlining the recruitment process and reducing the number of girls on waiting lists to the continued development of our digital Volunteer Toolkit which makes maintaining a troop easier than ever allowing more time spent with the girls and less time on administrative tasks.

**Will financial assistance be available?**

Yes! We are committed to making Girl Scouts accessible to all girls and, therefore, financial assistance will continue to be available to qualifying families.

**Will the increase affect the membership dues for lifetime members?**

At this time, the GSUSA National Board is considering the effect the increase on annual membership dues will have on the cost to become a lifetime member, and we hope to have that information for you soon.

**Will the membership dues change each year?**

The annual membership dues are determined by GSUSA's National Board of Directors and there is no current plan for additional increases.

**Is there a Council Service Fee?**

Yes, there will continue to be a Council Service Fee of \$5 added to girl memberships only. This is the only portion of the membership fee that stays local to Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland.