



Graduating Seniors Funds Extension Guidelines

Issued April 1, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact many programs and activities that 12th grade Girl Scouts had planned for spring/summer 2021: extended travel, bridging-to-adult ceremonies, camping, and other Girl Scout activities.

In response to this current situation, **Girl Scouts of Central Maryland will allow a one-time extension for 12th graders to use Girl Scout money-earned funds to reschedule these cancelled activities into the next membership year.**

This one-time extension to use funds is specifically to meet the needs of girls whose plans were cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19. The intent is to support the continuation of Girl Scout activities that had been planned prior to the onset of the pandemic, not to support the planning and financing of new or additional Girl Scout activities.

It is important for troops/groups to recognize that rescheduling activities for next year may not be practical in many cases; troops/groups may have girls dispersing to different states, with uncertainty about their plans for summer 2021. For some troops/groups, disbanding, and finding a rewarding way to deploy the funds they earned on behalf of Girl Scouts, may be their best path forward (see below "*Recommendations for Troops Including 12th Graders Who Intend to Disband*"). Troops/Groups should have a frank discussion now about the possibility of using their funds next year, and possibly revisit the conversation in December 2021 to make their final decisions.

Financial Considerations

- To meet the needs of troops/groups or girls who had plans for spring/summer 2021 that were interrupted due to COVID-19, **the deadline to use the funds will be extended from September 30, 2021 to August 31, 2022.**
- Troops/Groups should follow all procedures for disbanding troops by August 31, 2022, including financial reconciliation and closing bank accounts.
- **After September 30, 2021, these young alums may not participate in the Cookie Program or Magazine and Nut Program (i.e., ME2 Mag/Nut Sale); they may not do any additional money-earning to finance activities planned for the 2021-2022 membership year.**

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 2021-2022 membership year.
- Adults working with the young alums must also have active membership and current criminal background clearance on file with GSCM.

Use of Funds

- All activities and use of funds must be directly tied to the mission of Girl Scouts and be permitted Girl Scout activities by Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. All funds “must be used for the purposes of Girl Scouting.” (Ownership of Assets Policy, *Blue Book* p. 22).
- Continue the usual diligence to avoid individual accounting. 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*, *Safety Activity Checkpoints*, and the policies of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. Special guidelines include:
 - The young alums participating in activities during the 2021-2022 membership year should be treated as Ambassadors. Use the same guidelines and ratios for the supervision of young alum members as for supervision of Ambassador Girl Scouts. One exception: for group overnight travel (once permitted per the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland ‘Back to Girl Scouts Activities Guidelines during COVID-19’) 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 recommendation to purchase the additional Mutual of Omaha insurance stands.

Gold Award Guidance

Girl Scouts is not offering a deadline extension. Accordingly, all graduating seniors should plan to have their final reports submitted through *GoGold* by September 30, 2021.

Recommendations for Troops including 12th Graders Who Intend to Disband

There are many ways that girls can still spend funds and give back to their community and/or to Girl Scouts of Central Maryland in the current membership year. Decisions about how to spend troop treasury funds should include girl input since it is their troop/group and Girl Scout experiences are girl-led. Examples of ways girls might use funds before September 30, 2021:

- 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.
- Donate part of the troop/group treasury to Girl Scouts of Central Maryland’s financial assistance fund for girls, the Service Unit, another troop, or to support girl activities. Girl activities can include purchasing materials to support another organization through take-action projects.

Questions?

Email Girl Scouts of Central Maryland at membercare@gscm.org