

Telstar Finances

Several people have asked me questions about the group finances and I thought that it might be a good idea to explain this to you all.

Subscriptions :- Telstar charges each parent €120 per child per year as the subscription of membership. This money is used for the expenses of running the group Materials for meetings, small equipment, repairs to equipment, leader expenses (See note), training costs, insurance, leader uniforms, membership fees to the UK Scout Association and to FNEL etc. Out of your subscription, we pay €33 per member to the UK Scout Association and €12 per head to FNEL.

We have a rule that all annual expenditure (non capital) must be funded by the subscription.

We are managing within our subscription budget and don't anticipate a rise in the near future.

Fund Raising:- We also run several fund raising events per year to provide capital for major camping equipment and towards our ultimate goal – a ScoutHome of our own. The events include : Quiz Evening, Car Quest (Treasure Hunt), 2nd Hand sale/Car Boot Sale, Bonfire Night etc. Any ideas you may have for fund raising would be welcomed.

Equipment Subsidies:- If we plan carefully in advance we can obtain a 50% subsidy from the Ministere de la Jeunesse for most camping equipment but this takes some months and we can't purchase the equipment in advance of their approval.

Building Fund : - Our Building fund is worth over €80,000 plus €20,000 which we will be able to use once our building project is approved, which came from the closed down Danish Scout Group in Luxembourg. We anticipate that we will need in excess of >€300, 000 for our building, depending on the level of subsidy we can get from the government.

Camp Costing :- For each camp we budget based on costs and divide this by the number of members we think will attend. This gives the price of the camp. We have pay deposits on camp sites, plan purchases and in general commit the budget spending. We try to make each camp cost neutral but any profit or loss is picked up by the general fund. Leaders do not pay for camps – they already contribute their time .

Rebate policy :- There have been several discussions about the possible rebate of camp fees when people have to drop out and this was debated by the Executive Committee (your representatives) and it was decided to have a general policy of no rebates. If anyone really has difficulties then they can write to the Chairman and ask for help.

We do not charge membership subscriptions for members whose parents are out of work and we help where we can with others who occasionally have cash flow issues. If you are in doubt, please ask the Chairman.

Leaders and Officers Expenses:- Our leaders and officers volunteer their time and we believe that they should not be out of pocket for their Scouting activities. The rule is that they should charge for petrol, postage, phone, etc at cost. Some leaders choose not to claim expenses and make this further contribution to the group. All Telstar officers are volunteers and receive no payment for the time they contribute.

Telstar Bank Accounts:- We have three bank accounts, one for subscriptions, one for camps and one for general finances. These are all handled by our Treasurer with help from the Events Treasurer who handles Subscriptions and Camps.

How can I help:- Well you can help us by checking carefully when you pay money to Telstar....

- Is it the right account? (we carefully give you the correct account to pay to)
- Have you mentioned on the bank transfer, the name of your child and the event name.

Sponsorship:- We get a small subsidy from the European Institutions Social fund and occasionally we get contributions from companies with Telstar connections. Anglo-American, Dupont, Leadership Solutions Europe etc. If your company might help, please ask them for us.

Bottom Line :- All Telstar money is used to provide stimulating Scouting for your children and we rely on your support to make this work well.

Please give me a call if you have questions or comments Chris 26313384

Chris G – Oct 11