

Do you Do Dues?

Thank you to Alberta Council for the creation and use of this document

Dues, or Ember gold as it is sometimes called, is a traditional part of Guiding. Not everyone has to have dues as part of their unit, but here is a helpful guide to help those who do have dues.

What are dues used for?

Guiding Essentials, page 67, states that funds to support each unit come from some or all of the following:

- A weekly fee paid by the girls (dues)
- Additional registration fees (exclusive of the national membership fee)
- Cookie sales
- Additional fundraising if approved

Dues are meant to help support the unit activities and are reflective of what is needed by the unit for this.

Do I have to have dues?

No, you do not have to have dues. This is something that each unit needs to decide if they are going to do.

Do I collect dues at every meeting or at the beginning of the year?

One reason for dues is to help teach the girls responsibility by bringing their dues on a regular basis. Depending on what the dues are being used for, some units may need to have at least part of it paid at the beginning (ie: they provide a snack every week for the girls from the dues) but in general, the girls learn responsibility by bringing their dues to their regular meetings.

What happens if girls cannot afford the dues or if they forget?

Not everyone will be able to afford to bring dues, so this needs to be respected by the units. The girls need to be able to come to the meetings regardless of being able to afford dues. If a girl forgets their dues, then she should still be able to participate in the program.

Can I call a registration fee dues?

No, a registration fee, such as money needed to pay for the rent of the meeting space, are not dues. There is a financial assistance fund available to help off-set the cost of rental spaces and can be applied for twice yearly. Talk to your Area Commissioner about how to do this.

What is a good guideline for how much to charge for dues?

This is going to be dependent on each unit, but is not meant as a fundraising activity but rather to help off-set the cost of the program done. The money from the sale of cookies also helps to off-set the program costs. A very general guideline is \$0.25 - \$1.00 per meeting for Sparks, Embers and Guides, and \$1.00-\$5.00 per meeting for Pathfinders and Rangers.