

ACE & SCOUTING

How to use "Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account Program Funds" to cover Scouting expenses.

What is the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program?

The Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program provides qualifying families with a \$1,000 (per child) credit that can be used to pay for a variety of enrichment activities that will accelerate learning for students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at <https://education.ohio.gov/OhioACE>

How can youth/families use the ACE funding?

The following is the list of ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES eligible for potential reimbursement provided on <https://education.ohio.gov/OhioACE>:

- Before- or after-school educational programs;
- Day camps, including camps for academics, music, and arts;
- Tuition for learning extension centers;
- Tuition for learning pods;
- The purchase of curriculum, manipulatives, and consumable materials for home-school families;
- Educational, learning, or study skills services;
- Field trips to historical landmarks, museums, science centers, and theaters – including admission, exhibit, and program fees;
- Language classes;
- Musical instrument lessons;
- Tutoring.

Additional clarifications on what is an allowable ACE expenditure: <https://help.aceohio.org/updated-program-changes>

What SCOUTING COSTS are "allowable expenses" under the OHIO ACE funding program?

Based on the list of approved expenses (see above) the following Scouting-related expenses may be considered for reimbursement:

- Annual National BSA youth registration fee of \$80. UNIT FEES/DUES are NOT eligible at this time.
- National BSA New Member Fee of \$25 (if applicable).
- Insurance Fee of \$5.50.
- Day Activities, such as Merit Badge College and Council weekend events where an overnight stay is not required. Read more information [HERE](#).

What Scouting expenses are NOT eligible for reimbursement at this time?

The following expenses are NOT considered an "allowable expense" under ACE and Ohio State Guidelines:

- Council-sponsored events requiring an overnight stay (such as Resident Camps, some Order of the Arrow events, NYLT, etc.)
Read more information [HERE](#).
- Handbooks or Merit Badge Pamphlets
- Adult Leader Registration Fees
- Activities and events organized by the Unit (that are not Council-sponsored events)
- Cost of supplies for Unit meetings or activities (such as supplies for a Den mtg or merit badge.)
- Any camping equipment or electronics.
- Uniforming or insignia.
- Travel expenses.

HOW to file for reimbursement through the ACE program:

1. Pay your BSA Registration Fees one of three ways:
 - a. Register/Pay ONLINE by visiting LINK and completing an application for your chosen Unit. You will be e-mailed an official receipt from the BSA; this is your PROOF of payment and is one of the allowable documents to receive reimbursement. *(THIS IS THE EASIEST WAY FOR ACE-QUALIFYING FAMILIES TO RECEIVE TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT)*
 - b. Register/Pay AT THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER (10078 Reading Rd, Cincinnati). You will be provided with a paper receipt; this is your PROOF of payment and is one of the allowable documents to receive reimbursement.
 - c. Register/Pay by turning in an APPLICATION/PAYMENT TO UNIT LEADER. The Unit Leader will provide you with a PAYMENT VOUCHER which is your PROOF of payment and is one of the allowable documents to receive reimbursement. YOU MUST SUBMIT THIS VOUCHER AND HAVE HAD YOUR APPLICATION/PAYMENT TURNED IN TO THE COUNCIL OFFICE BY YOUR UNIT LEADER TO AVOID HAVING REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS “REJECTED.”
2. Visit <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/ACE/Ohio-ACE-How-to-Apply> to begin the application process with ACE. You will need to apply with ACE to determine eligibility, and then apply with “Merit” which is the service provider for Ohio that administers the fund and reimburses approved expenses. The process can take up to two weeks according to the website. You can find a step-by-step guide here: <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/ACE/Ohio-ACE-How-to-Apply/ACE-Application-Step-by-Step-Guide.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>
3. Once you are approved and registered with ACE, you can begin uploading qualifying expenses, including Membership Fees and daytime outings.

How do I know if I am eligible?

Eligibility is determined in three ways; for a family to qualify, you must meet ONLY ONE of the following criteria:

RESIDENCY

Children residing in districts identified as having a high rate of chronic absenteeism or have one or more schools identified as EdChoice eligible qualify for an ACE Educational Savings Account. [View the full list of eligible districts.](#)

INCOME

Children who reside in a household with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) at or below 400% of the federal poverty level based on the most household’s most recent federal income tax return qualify for an ACE Educational Savings Account. [Find the chart of qualifying income levels.](#)

GOVERNMENT SOCIAL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Children who are part of a family that participates in programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF) or other government social programs with eligibility at or below 400% of the federal poverty level, qualify for an ACE Educational Savings Account.

