



## **Overseas and Mainland Activities Subsidy Scheme**

*This Circular substitutes Programme Circular No. 71/2014 issued on 15 July 2014.*

Overseas Activities Subsidy Scheme was established in 2000 with the aim to encourage our youth members and young leaders to broaden their horizons through the participation of overseas and mainland activities. Through the activities, they are encouraged to have self-learning and reflection, so as to be independent, helpful, responsible and engaged people. To refine our scheme and to benefit more young people, the scheme is now extended to overseas or mainland service, assessments of awards and the financial needy youth members or young leaders. It also enhances the personal subsidy limit. The scheme is now re-named as “Overseas and Mainland Activities Subsidy Scheme”(“OMASS”). Details are as follows:

### **A. Recognized Activities**

Programme Branch recognized the following activities and assessments.

Type	Content
Overseas or Mainland Activities	<u>Overseas and Mainland Jamboree, Exchange Activity, Visit, Forum, Conference and Workshop</u> Details will be listed in the recognized activity circulars.
Overseas or Mainland Service	<u>Overseas or Mainland Service</u> Details will be listed in the recognized activity circulars.
Overseas or Mainland Award Assessments	<u>Overseas or Mainland Exploration Assessment and Scouts of the World Award Assessment</u> The assessments should be recommended by the respective Branch or Regional Commissioners, and approved and recognized by Programme Branch.

## B. Eligibility

Types	Eligibility	
Overseas or Mainland Activities	<p>Active and serving Scout members from all sections and leaders aged between 12 and 30 who have not received any subsidy from OMASS for the past 2 years (calculated on the activity's application deadline), and have to satisfy the basic criteria listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scout Members: Should have obtained at least Cub Scout Adventure Crest Award, Scout Advanced Award, Venture Scout Award or Rover Scout Award in respective serving sections within 2 years preceding the date of activity's application deadline.</li> <li>- Scout Leaders: Should have completed the "Sectional Leaders Wood Badge Basic In-service Training" or "Non-Sectional Leaders Wood Badge Intermediate Course" or obtained Leaders Appointment Warrant.</li> </ul>	Scout members and leaders from needy family, including current recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA"), full/half grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme ("STAS"), or having short-term or any other particular financial difficulties.
Overseas or Mainland Service	Active and serving Scout members from all sections and leaders aged between 12 and 30.	
Overseas or Mainland Award Assessments	Active and serving Venture / Rover Scouts aged between 15 and 26.	

Note: Applicants who are Venture / Rover Scouts participating in programmes related to "Youth Involvement in Decision-Making" (e.g. Venture Scout Council or Rover Scout Council etc.) might receive an extra allowance.

## C. Subsidy Content

1. Essential expenses include airfare (include taxes and other surcharges), participation fee, board and lodging, connecting transportation, visa fee, travel insurance, vaccination, etc.

2. Programme Branch will determine the amount of subsidy on an individual basis taking into account the nature of the activity, availability of funds and alternative sources of funding received etc.

Types	Amount of Allowance
Overseas or Mainland Activities	- Successful applicants will each be granted up to 80% of the essential expenses of the activity or HK\$20,000, whichever is less.
Overseas or Mainland Service	- Successful applicants with financial difficulties will receive a full grant for essential expenses.
Overseas or Mainland Award Assessments	- Successful applicants will each be granted up to 50% of the essential expenses of the activity or HK\$7,000, whichever is less. - Successful applicants with financial difficulties will receive a full grant for essential expenses.

3. In particular cases, equipment of contingent is considered to be subsidized.

#### D. Application

Types	Application
Overseas or Mainland Activities	- Applicants must complete the registration with relevant units. - Applicants should complete the “Application Form for Overseas and Mainland Activities Subsidy Scheme (PT/39)”
Overseas or Mainland Service	【Application Form could be obtained at Programme Branch or downloaded from <a href="http://www.scout.org.hk/form/PT39">http://www.scout.org.hk/form/PT39</a> 】. Please return the completed form together with <b><u>copies of the relevant qualification certificates</u></b> by hand or by post to Programme Branch before the activity’s application deadline (Please refer to the respective activities circulars). Late application will not be entertained.
Overseas or Mainland Award Assessments	Applicants should complete the “Application Form for Overseas and Mainland Activities Subsidy Scheme (PT/39)” and the assessment plan 2 months prior to the commencement of the assessment. Please return the completed documents with respective Branch or Regional Commissioners’ recommendation by hand or by post to Programme Branch. Late application will not be entertained.

### **E. Payment arrangement**

- Applicants will be notified in writing of the application result. Applicants must complete and return the Application Form for Disbursement of Subsidy, activity report (related photos or assessment attached) or assignment requested by Programme Branch, and the original receipts of essential expenses of the activity, by hand or by post to Programme Branch, 9/F, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Road, Kowloon, within 2 months after the activity. Any application received after the deadline will not be entertained. The quality of reports or assignments will be considered in approving the allowance.
- Applicants with financial difficulties might apply for an advance subsidy payment. All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **F. Enquiry**

For enquiries, please contact Programme Branch at 2957 6411 or 2957 6417 during office hours.



Joseph LAU  
Programme Commissioner