

Fraternal Grants Program Guidelines for GCU Lodges & Districts

The Fraternal Grants Program offers lodges & districts the opportunity to receive *seed money prior to an approved fraternal activity*. In this program, the GCU Home Office enables more community service and fraternal events.

It is important to GCU that Fraternal Grants only be awarded for activities that are educational, athletic, benevolent (church focused) or community-service based that support the GCU's mission.

In order to receive a Fraternal Grant, each event must be pre-approved, using the **Fraternal Funding Request Form**, which is available both in an online version and print version. All information requested on the form must be completed so the Communications and Fraternal Departments have all the details required to create any promotional items needed for the event.

Rules & Procedure

1. **Lodges/districts must apply for grants at least 30 days in advance** of an event. Requests made after the deadline may not be approved.
2. The approval form can be completed online, emailed or printed to complete by hand. Online completion is preferred.
3. The activity must be approved by the Fraternal Department in order to receive the grant. Approval is dependent on the lodge/district being up-to-date with all required quarterly reports. Grants will not be approved for lodges/districts who have not submitted the required quarterly minutes as of their deadlines. For instance, a lodge requesting a grant in August must have submitted their quarterly reports for the 1st & 2nd quarters, as those deadlines have already passed.
4. 100% of grant funds must be utilized toward direct activity expenses and may not be directly donated to any organization.
5. Lodges/districts must submit a **Financial Reporting Form** within one month after the activity. This form can be completed online or can be printed and emailed to events@gcuusa.com, mailed or faxed to the attention of the Fraternal Department.
6. A lodge will not be approved for a grant for a district-sponsored event, nor will a district be approved for a grant for a lodge-sponsored event.
7. In order for a lodge/district to be eligible for another grant, they *must* submit a short article for *GCU Magazine* with at least two photos of the event, as well as the aforementioned financial report. If a lodge/district does not submit the article and photos for the magazine, that entity will not be eligible for further grants.

8. If a lodge/district does not complete (a) the required financial report on the activity for which the grant was received and/or does not (b) submit an article with photos for the magazine, that entity will be subject to receiving a reduction in their subsidy by the amount of the grant for that year.
9. A lodge can receive up to **four** Fraternal Grants per year for a maximum of \$800 in additional monies for the year AND can receive an additional \$200 Fraternal Grant through the Helping Hands Day Program for a maximum of **five** grants for up to \$1,000 in one year. *Please note Fraternal Grant amounts vary for Regional Lodges, since they often encompass several former GCU Lodges when they are formed. Regional lodges are informed of the total number of annual Fraternal Grants available to them when they are formed.*
10. A lodge and district can receive two Fraternal Grants in the Community Service category and two in the Fraternal Fellowship & Support category per calendar year. The event or activity must fit into one of these categories to receive funding:
 - Community Service** will be defined as assisting those in need or improving the community-at-large. Social activities that benefit a charity or cause will be considered community service.
 - Fraternal Social & Support** will be defined as social, educational, cultural, religious, recreational, or patriotic activities; as well as activities necessary to maintain the local lodge, personal development of members, or those that advance our mission or build fellowship among members.
11. A district can receive up to **four** Fraternal Grants per year for a maximum of \$800 in additional monies for the planning and execution of events geared towards the benefit of a person, entity or organization. Districts are not eligible to receive funds in the Helping Hands Day Grant Program.
12. In addition, districts may also participate in the District Grant Program, which offers additional funding based on events that are athletic or social in nature.
13. At the end of the year, a lodge must have held the required minimum number of activities to maintain active status as stated in the GCU Rules & Regulations (4) **plus** an additional activity for each Grant received in order to be eligible for the Fraternal Grant program in the coming year. (Does not apply to districts.) [This requirement will be waived in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions placed on activities in 2020.]

**A Fraternal Grant may not be received for a project also intended to receive Matching Funds or for events that offer additional subsidy monies, such as the Jr. Bowling Tournament or a Special Event Subsidy.*