

	Title: TelecomPioneers Cash Donation Policy
Manual: Policy	Revision Date: Approved Date: 03.01.21



To: All Pioneers Units

From: International Pioneers Board of Directors

Date: March 1, 2021

Pioneers is a network of Volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in local communities.

Pioneers Cash Donation Policy

The Pioneers organization is a hands-on volunteer organization.

Our donors and members expect us to be responsible stewards of the money we raise through dues and other fundraising activities. As Unit leaders you have an obligation to uphold our organization's mission as volunteers in our communities. Our donors expect that their donation will be used to support the Unit's volunteer efforts for their geographic area.

Donating cash to support other organizations contradicts our Volunteer philosophy and does not contribute to our reporting of Volunteer Hours in any significant way. In recent years we have begun to migrate away from our Mission as hands-on Volunteers and have turned to supporting organizations with cash donations totaling millions of dollars, **organization wide, over the years**. This is money that donors have given to Pioneers to support the organization and **Volunteer** activities in their local communities.

In an effort to realign Pioneers actions with our Volunteer Mission and Vision the following policy will be in-effect beginning March 1, 2021.

Checks to other organizations, agencies, not-for-profits or churches are not to be made by any Unit - Chapter, Council/Region/Club. Gift Cards fall within the category of Cash donations and is not an approved form of donation under this policy.

It is understood that this is a major shift to the way many Units have become used to doing business and that the Units must now reassess their activities and projects. For others it has been their way of doing business all along and is working well. **Your Group Director/Executive Committee Chairperson will help you with any questions you may have with this transition and is the only person authorized to modify this policy and authorize a check to be written. Any request for a check must be accompanied with a letter of explanation and number of volunteer hours associated with the project.**

Group Directors are defined as the Pioneers representatives who sit on the International Pioneers Board of Directors: AT&T Pioneers Executive Committee Chairperson; Canadian Pioneers Director; Legacy West Pioneers Director; New Outlook Pioneers Director; New Vision Pioneers Director. Keep in mind that we are **Volunteers** first and foremost. The money donated by our members and others is given in good faith that Pioneers Units are using their portion to support their local communities with boots on the ground hands-on volunteerism.

That is what we do. That is who we are.



Ways to Realign Volunteer Projects

CASH DONATION	VOLUNTEER REALIGNMENT
Smile Train Therapeutic Riding Service Oriented Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and donate dental hygiene kits to local organizations • Volunteer at the Barn; Purchase/donate riding helmets, etc. • Contact the local branch or go on-line to see how you can volunteer or help with their Wish List of items
National Organizations Cancer Society, Heart Association, Wounded Warriors, March of Dimes, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer at a walk-a-thon being held in your <u>local</u> community. Water table, registration, etc. • Seek local agencies supported by these organizations to purchase items on their wish lists. • Volunteer at the local organization
Food Bank, Pantry, Shelter, Soup Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a food collection at a life member luncheon, meeting, event, family event (birthday, graduation, picnic); help to stock shelves. • Contact the Food Bank, pantry, shelter, soup kitchen to find the need and order on-line and have items delivered to the organization. • Partner with a local youth organization to shop and deliver goods and items.
Partner with another Group/Agency/Organization to support their efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support other organization's hands-on projects by purchasing needed goods. 4H Clubs, Key Clubs, National Honor Society, Student Council, Youth groups, Fraternities/Sororities, etc.
In Memory/Condolences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a card to the Family • Do a project in the person's community and let the family know. They may wish to participate. • Do a project once a year in memory of all members that have passed.

Pioneers are a resourceful group. Through creativity and initiative, such as reaching out to co-workers, family and friends, and identifying volunteer efforts within your local communities, you can foster meaningful relationships with local organizations that need your help, as an alternative to cash donations.



Talking Points

1. We are a hands-on, Volunteer, not-for-profit organization.
2. Donations are made with the expectation that the funds will be used to sustain the Pioneers organization and local Unit's volunteer efforts.
3. Donors do not expect that we will repurpose funds by donating cash funds to other not-for-profits.
4. The receiving non-profit may have publicized financial or other more serious problems or allegations. Whether it is true or not, the public's perception of that organization is everything. There could be serious ramifications for Pioneers requiring it to justify its support of any questionable organization.
5. Donors may not approve, for whatever personal reason, with our repurposing their cash donations to an organization which they would not donate to themselves. If members want to support other organizations, then they can do that themselves. When they give to Pioneers, they expect us to use the donation for Pioneers projects and programs and to sustain the Pioneers organization.
6. Donations to National organizations do not have a direct and immediate impact at the local level as our volunteer efforts do.
7. Not making cash donations avoids any conflicts of interest issues.
8. Donor directed funds should never be accepted when it is stipulated that Pioneers are to send a check/cash to another organization. Donations should be made to **Pioneers** to support projects and programs they are engaged in locally.
9. Vouchers for cash donations to other organizations will be rejected by the PAC and sent back unless authorized by the Group Director/Executive Committee Chairperson and sent from the Director's or Executive Committee chair's email.
10. Questions about your projects and how to align with this policy beginning March 1, 2021 should be referred to your Group Director or Executive Committee Chairperson.