

HILLARY STEP SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

*For schools, groups,
organisations and individuals*



EST. 1972


HILLARY
OUTDOORS
EDUCATION CENTRES



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HILLARY STEP SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING



Named after the almost vertical 12-metre cliff face that Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay scaled in reaching the summit of Mt. Everest in 1953, the Hillary Step was the final and arguably the most challenging obstacle the climbers faced. It is said to have pushed Sir Ed to his mental and physical limits.

Today, the Hillary Step is a metaphor for the challenges rangatahi face. One of the biggest obstacles is financial inequity, but with a Hillary Step Scholarship, rangatahi have the opportunity to build courage and a belief in their own ability to achieve.

Built on the legacy created by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sir Graeme Dingle, the Sir Edmund **Hillary Outdoors** Education Trust, strives to ensure all rangatahi, regardless of their finances and abilities have the opportunity to enhance their lives through outdoor and adventure education.

How Hillary Step Scholarships are funded

Our amazing community of Funders, including; Trusts, Foundations, Organisations and Individuals contribute to the Hillary Step Scholarship (HSS) programme by providing grants and donations.

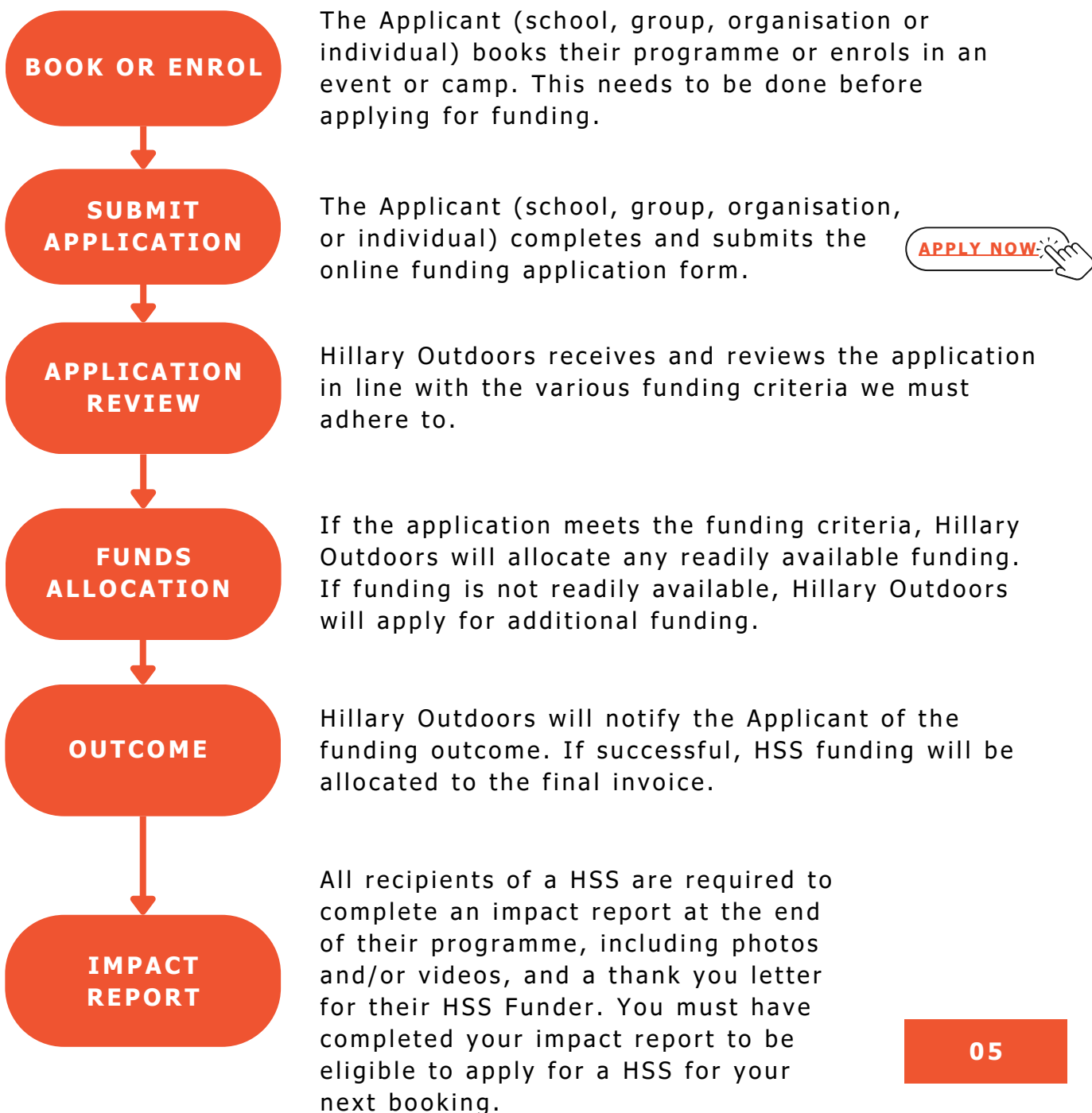
Any funding received from these incredible groups and people is directly distributed to schools, groups, organisations and individuals who demonstrate the need for financial support to overcome barriers for them to attend Hillary Outdoors.



HOW TO APPLY FOR A HILLARY STEP SCHOLARSHIP

Any school, group, organisation or individual can apply for a Hillary Step Scholarship to offset the cost of their programme. This includes school programmes, events (Get2Go and Hillary Challenge), and holiday camps.

Individuals can only apply for scholarships for individual programmes such as Hillary Holiday Camps, Duke of Edinburgh, and Discovery Camps. Please note that individual scholarships are only available for youth participants; adult participants are not eligible for Hillary Step funding. Scholarships for school programmes can only be applied for by schools.



OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We recommend also applying for other grants to help fund your trip to Hillary Outdoors.

Hillary Outdoors strives to ensure our programmes are accessible to all rangatahi but from time to time the funding we have available is tagged to specific regions and/or can only be used during a certain time period.

Gaming trusts typically support:

- Youth participation in sport
- Engagement in outdoor education
- Positive community outcomes

Gaming trusts often have a mandate to give back a percentage of their proceeds to the community they were raised in.

To see which Trusts and Foundations have funding available in your area:

- Search the list of Societies That Make Grants on the [DIA website](#). (The list is sorted alphabetically by geographical area.)
- Apply for a grant directly through the gaming trust. (Many of these organisations have online application processes and can provide an outcome in 4-6 weeks).





FAQs

How much funding should I apply for when applying for a HSS, and does it cover GST?

You can apply for funding to help cover your programme costs or enrolment fee. Funding does not cover the GST portion of the cost/fee or travel expenses.

How much funding am I likely to receive?

Whilst we strive to fulfil all HSS applications with the full amount of funding requested, sometimes we are unable to do so due to the amount of funding we have available at the time, and any funding conditions we need to adhere to. The funding we have available is generously donated or granted to us by our Funders. We may partially approve or decline your application.

When should I apply for a HSS?

We encourage you to apply for a HSS at the time of making your booking. The more lead time we have, the better. You must have a confirmed booking with us to be eligible for a HSS.

When will I know the outcome of my HSS application?

We aim to provide funding outcomes at least 2 months prior to your programme booking. From time to time, this is not always possible as we are waiting to receive outcomes from our Funders.

Does my school need to be low decile/ high EQI to be eligible for a HSS?

The majority of our Funders look to support students from low decile/high EQI schools and low socio-economic communities to ensure finances are not a barrier to experiential, outdoor education. Our Funders will also consider individual hardship cases when allocating funds.

Can I receive a HSS after I have paid my invoice in full?

No, we cannot pay scholarships retrospectively.

IMPACT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Each year, through our Hillary Step Scholarship programme, we raise funds to help young people from underserved communities and those living in hardship have brighter futures.

In the financial year ending 31 March 2026, we distributed \$599,540 to 1730 participants, thanks to our incredible community of Supporters.



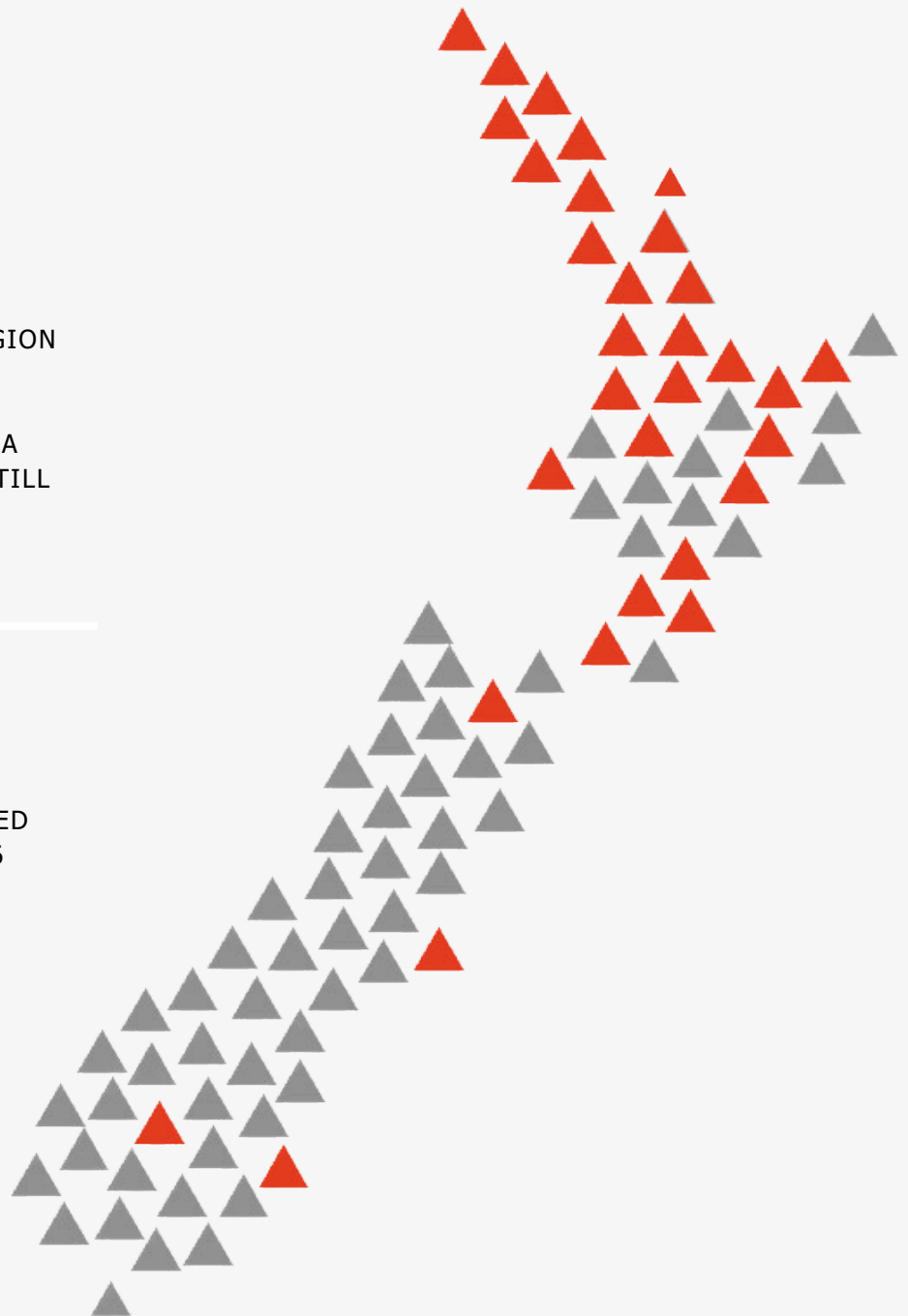
WE FUND RANGATAHI FROM
ACROSS AOTEAROA

HILLARY STEP SCHOLARSHIP
(HSS) DISTRIBUTION BY REGION
IN FY26

EVEN IF YOUR LOCATION IS A
GREY TRIANGLE, YOU ARE STILL
ELIGIBLE FOR A HSS

22%

OF STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED
HILLARY OUTDOORS IN FY26
RECEIVED A HILLARY STEP
SCHOLARSHIP



STILL HAVE QUESTIONS...?



Feel free to get in touch with our Fundraising Manager
Shaun: shaun@hillaryoutdoors.co.nz
or call our team on **0800 688 843**

OUR HSS SUPPORTERS



Tommas Family Trust

