



OJAI WOMEN'S FUND

MEMBERSHIP FAQs

Who can become a member of the Ojai Women's Fund?

Every woman of the Ojai Valley is warmly welcome to join. We want our membership to reflect the beauty and diversity of our community.

What does it take to join?

An annual contribution of \$100 or more makes you a member of a Giving Circle Group. Members may choose to donate a minimum of \$1,000 for an Individual Membership. Some Individual Members also like to join a group, which costs an additional \$100 or more.

I would like to be a part of a Group, but I need help finding or forming a group.

We are happy to help you connect with others. All you need to do is sign-up for \$100, and we'll do the rest. Our Membership Co-Chairs are available to assist you.

What is the difference between becoming a member and making a donation?

Membership allows you to vote on the nonprofit organizations put forth each year to receive grants. Donations are always welcome but grant voting privileges.

[How to Donate](#)

If a woman gives \$5,000, does it mean she gets five votes?

No, each Individual Member or group casts a single vote. While there is a \$100 individual/\$1,000 group contribution minimum, there is no contribution maximum.

How can I join?

There are two ways to pay, online or by check.

- [Click here](#) to make a secure online credit card payment.
- By check: [Download the 2023 Membership Form](#). Make checks payable to the Ojai Women's Fund and mail to: Ojai Women's Fund, PO Box 310, Ojai, CA 93024.

When can I join OWF?

You may join at any time during the calendar year.

If you completed your membership form by the end of July 2023:

- You are considered a 2023 voting member
- You have group and/or individual membership benefits through the end of 2023

If you complete your membership form after August 1, 2023:

- You are considered a 2024 voting member
- You have group and/or individual membership benefits through end of 2024

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes, all donations to the Ojai Women's Fund are tax deductible. We will gratefully acknowledge your donation with a letter that contains appropriate tax information.

How is my donation used?



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Each year the Ojai Women's Fund Research Committee undertakes a rigorous process to vet grant applications from local 501(c)(3) nonprofits that address arts, education, environment, health and social services. The committee will then prepare a ballot and present to members in the fall to vote for programs they would like to see funded. Grants are awarded based on a simple majority of members' votes. Each membership (group or individual) receives one vote.

What is the relationship between the OWF and the Santa Barbara Foundation?

Ojai Women's Fund operates under the fiscal sponsorship of the Santa Barbara Foundation.

How do I recommend an organization to receive a grant?

Please share your recommendation by sending an email to owf@ojaiwomensfund.org. A research committee member will respond to you.

Why shouldn't I just give directly to my favorite nonprofit?

When you give directly to favorite charities you may indeed have more control over where your money goes. But, evidence shows that most women who participate in pooled funds ALSO give to charities of special interest. Here are some reasons to support OWF:

- Members of a pooled fund recognize that by combining donations with others, their giving is leveraged into larger amounts that can have a much greater impact in the community.
- Because of the thorough research process and careful money monitoring, OWF can find and fund deserving smaller or newer organizations that an individual might not have time or resources to fully investigate.
- While OWF doesn't usually have mandatory meetings and events, members appreciate the camaraderie of doing good works together; "group" members enjoy getting together to decide their annual votes; and, all members really look forward to attending the Annual Grants Celebration.

I would like to become more involved with the Ojai Women's Fund. How do I volunteer?

[Click here](#) to read about our volunteer opportunities.

I love what the Ojai Women's Fund is doing and would like to help spread the word by hosting an event at my home (or other location). Whom should I contact?

Wonderful! Please email owf@ojaiwomensfund.org and we will reach out to you.

Do you still have unanswered questions? Please, contact membership@ojaiwomensfund.org and we'll get back with you.