



## 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 do not grant voting privileges.

[ojaiwomensfund.org/donate](http://ojaiwomensfund.org/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 Membership Form](#). Make checks payable to the Ojai Women's Fund and mail them to the Ojai Women's Fund, PO Box 310, Ojai, CA 93024.

#### **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.

#### **Once I become a member am I always a member?**

Memberships are good for one year. Your annual contribution of \$100 or more will ensure that your membership continues. The funds we collect each year are awarded in grants the same calendar year to meet critical needs in the Ojai Valley.



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### **How is my donation put to use?**

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 it 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.

### **Can I join OWF anytime during the year?**

Yes, you can. Each calendar year, we announce the annual membership drive. It typically starts at the beginning of each year. If you join during the membership drive, you are eligible to vote for that year's grantees in the fall. If you join after the membership drive ends, you are not eligible to vote for that year's grantees. Your membership will extend into the following year. You will be eligible to vote the following fall.

### **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](mailto: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. However, 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.



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**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 another location). Whom should I contact?**

Wonderful! Please email [OWF@ojaiwomensfund.org](mailto:OWF@ojaiwomensfund.org) and we will reach out to you.