

SLIDING SCALE PRICING FAQ

Q: *What do we mean by “Pay what you can”?*

A: “Pay what you can” is a simple way of describing a sliding scale or tiered pricing system, which is becoming a preferred model for equitable access to programs and services in order to accommodate participants of varied income levels.

Q: *Why a sliding scale?*

A: We all deserve access to quality programs in the park. A sliding scale is a way of addressing economic inequality in our society and making programs economically accessible to more people. **In order for a sliding scale to work, those who have access to financial resources should pay more, in order for those who have less financial resources to be able to access services.**

Q: *How much should I pay?*

A: This is entirely up to *YOU*, based on your personal financial situation. Please keep in mind that your contributions sustain the Fairmount Park Conservancy’s vital mission to support Philadelphia parks and the people who use them, so please err on the side of generosity whenever possible.

Still having trouble deciding? Here are some situational factors to consider...

Consider paying *HIGHER* on the scale if you:

- have a job with dependable pay and no dependents
- are comfortably retired with a pension or contribution-based retirement account (401k)
- are able to regularly (monthly) spend money for fun and entertainment
- eat out, go to movies or events, etc.
- are able to purchase airline flights for vacation/fun
- have access to inherited money
- are able to take unpaid time off

Consider paying *LOWER* on the scale if you:

- are a student depending primarily on loans
- are a senior citizen depending primarily on social security payments
- receive government services: EBT, WIC, Medicare, Medicaid
- are supporting dependents on a limited income
- have a disability that limits your gainful employment
- have to spend a large percentage of your income on non-negotiable expenses / basic needs (food, housing, healthcare, transportation, etc.)
- have significant debt
- are unemployed or underemployed