



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL

Over the last few months, we have seen the Scouting community come together, even while physically apart, to bring solutions, relief and comfort to those in need. From making masks to supporting food banks, Scouting has been a vital partner for communities across the country. The value of Scouting is undeniable for those within the program and the greater public, and we are committed to continuing to offer this unmatched opportunity to young people and families nationwide.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has worked to keep the membership fee as low as possible. Unfortunately, operating costs have continued to rise and COVID-19 has compounded the need to increase the fee to maintain the program.

To ensure the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting despite increasing operating costs, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has made the difficult but necessary decision to increase the annual membership fee.

The membership fees will take effect August 1, 2020, for new members in the 2020-2021 program year. For renewing members, the new fee will take effect on October 1, 2020. The updated unit charter fee will take effect August 1, 2020, for all new and rechartering units. These fees are now:

- \$75 Annual Unit Re-charter fee (For all new and re-chartering units),
- \$66 / \$5.50 a month for youth members in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts (Participants in kindergarten through age 20),
- \$42 / \$3.50 a month for youth members in Exploring (Participants age 10-20), and
- \$42 / \$3.50 a month for adult members (All registered adult volunteers in unit and non-unit positions. Volunteers with multiple registrations will continue to pay for only one position).

Note: although Venturers and Sea Scouts 18-20 fill out an adult membership application, they will pay the youth membership fee

In addition to the new membership and unit charter fees, the following fee will also be implemented beginning August 1st:

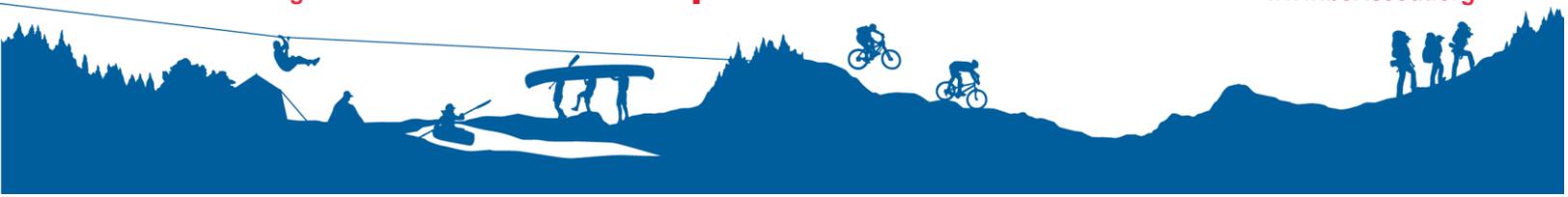
- \$25 One-Time, New Member Joining Fee (Same flat fee no matter when you join during the year; no prorating. New members pay joining fee in addition to the membership fee. No joining fee for Exploring participants or for any youth previously registered in any BSA program. No joining fee for transfers from one program to another).

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[See an infographic explaining updates](#)

As before, no portion of the national membership fee remains within the Baltimore Area Council. Every dollar of the fee goes to the National Service Center towards the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources.

Across the country and in each of our communities, we know that Scouting remains one of the most valuable investments we can make in young men and women today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow.

Our dedicated volunteers, staff, and Scouting families make this possible. Thank you for continuing to support one of the most valuable opportunities available to young people today.

Kenn Miller
Scout Executive
Commissioner

Bruce McMillin
Council President

Jeff Seymour
Council

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FAQ

Q: Why are the fees increasing?

A: The national annual membership fee is increasing by \$6, about 50 cents per month, because the costs associated with Scouting, including the cost of liability insurance, continue to increase and the organization is not able to subsidize the increased costs as it had in the past.

Q: When will this increase take effect?

A: The updated membership fees will take effect August 1, 2020, for new members in the 2020-2021 program year. For renewing members, the new fees will take effect on October 1, 2020.

Q: Is Scouting still a good value?

A: Absolutely! While most extracurricular activities are seasonal, Scouting is a year-round program that remains one of the most valuable investments we can make to support young men and women today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow. For most of our participants, the new national membership fee amounts to \$5.50 a month, which is an enormous value when you consider that many seasonal extracurricular activities often start at \$100 for programs that last a few weeks.

Q: What will the money be used for?

A: The annual national membership fee and new member joining fee help pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources.

Q: Is this increase being implemented to cover the cost of the additional background checks?

A: While the cost of background checks is paid for by the national organization, that is not the driver of this increase.

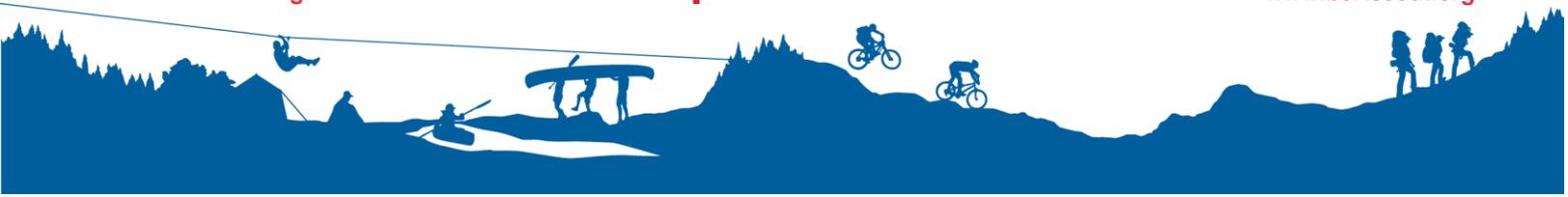
Q: Will membership fees go toward funding a victim's compensation trust?

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A: No. The national annual membership fee and the new member joining fee will help pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources.

Q: What measures has the national organization taken to offset its financial challenges?

A: In addition to ongoing efforts to streamline and simplify the organization, the national organization has taken a number of steps to address its financial challenges, which include recent furloughs and three rounds of reductions over the past year. These were in addition to ongoing consolidation of departments and elimination of some significant vendors for the most effective utilization of resources in support of Scouting.

Q: Will the national membership fee continue to increase?

A: Although no decision about future increases has been made, the cost of operating our organization and services increases every year. Should it be necessary to increase fees in the future, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has agreed to evaluate the needs and make such decisions, whenever possible, at the National Annual Meeting so that decisions can be announced with as much lead time as possible to allow councils and units to plan accordingly.

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