

## **2021 BSA Membership Fee Increases**

The national annual membership fee has increased by \$6 annually, or 50 cents per month, effective August 1. This is an increase in the national fee. The Heart of New England Council will not be increasing the local programming fee.

The decision to raise the national annual membership fee was not made lightly. Many alternatives were assessed, however rising costs cannot be as easily absorbed by Scouting as they have been in the past.

Every dollar of the national membership fee goes toward the cost of essential services, including liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, program resources, safety standards, youth protection and personal safety training, and services to councils nationwide to sustain Scouting.

Nationally Scouting will continue to develop and improve resources that support our Scouts and volunteers and enhance the Scouting experience. In addition to educational materials, resources have been used to develop online registration, Scoutbook (which now includes the Den Leader experience to ensure the safe and consistent delivery of Cub Scouting), and other services to improve the Scouting experience.

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 we have the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting, the updated membership fee is:

- \$72 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts participants
- \$45 for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)
- \$66 local program fee for Traditional Scouting program
- \$18 local program fee for Exploring and Adult registrations

*Note the above annual fees are pro-rated to your unit recharter date.*

- \$75 for a unit charter fee due at re-charter.

**The National membership fee increase took effect on August 1, 2021** for the 2021-2022 program year. It was not passed on to individual registrations at our local council during the month of August. Effective September 1, 2021, that increase will go into effect for all future registrations in Heart of New England Council.

The one-time \$25 joining fee for *new* program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts is still required; however, there is no joining fee for participants in Exploring, nor for those previously registered in any BSA program, those

transferring from one program to another, council-paid memberships, or adult volunteers.

Beginning September 1, 2021, the individual fee to participate in Scouting in Heart of New England Council will be:

- \$138 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts participants
- \$63 for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)

*Note the above annual fees are pro-rated to your unit recharter date.*

*This does not include the one-time joining fee for NEW program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts.*

As noted, the national membership fee helps 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.

Across the country and in each of our communities, we know 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.

**Brian Anders**  
**Council Commissioner**

**Chris Baker**  
**Council President**

**Mark Barbernitz**  
**Scout Executive**

## **BSA Fee Increase 2021/22 - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **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 effective August 1, 2021, for new members in the 2021-2022 program year.

### **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 \$6.00 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. Membership fees are one of the Boy Scouts of America's only sources of annual operating revenue.

### **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 victims compensation trust?**

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 multiple 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.