



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL

Earlier this week, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America notified all local councils that a membership fee increase for youth members and adult leaders is likely. These new fees would take effect as of January 1, 2020. We recognize this is neither easy information to hear, nor to convey, but we want to be transparent as we receive information to share so you can prepare your units appropriately.

This anticipated change is due to the significant cost increase of the liability insurance the BSA must carry to cover all official Scouting activities. At this time, the National Council has not yet determined the amount of the projected membership fee increase. A team of volunteers and staff from across the country is currently working on specifics to identify viable options and determine the best way forward. Any change in fees requires the National Executive Committee's input and approval.

100% of youth member and adult leader registration fees go to support the operations of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Baltimore Area Council also pays a membership fee to the National Council and purchases at an additional cost, many services from National, including employee benefits, training for staff and volunteers, and a variety of computer services.

The National Council has committed to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019, which would take effect on January 1, 2020. This will have an immediate impact as units begin the rechartering process for 2020. The on-line rechartering system will officially open as planned on October 1, 2019, for December recharterers to allow units to do their roster work. This process will go forth as usual except for the "calculate fees" portion, which won't be functional until November 1, 2019.

Please know that the organization is only considering this change out of necessity, and we are committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. That is why, in anticipation of a likely increase, the National Council is working to establish a donor-funded BSA Registration Assistance Fund to provide financial support to those who need it. This fund will be in addition to the many existing council and unit membership assistance funds.

A brief FAQ is attached, and additional information will be available as details are confirmed. Please direct any questions to scouting@baltimorebsa.org. Thank you again for all you do for Scouting!

Brian Steger, Scout Executive





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FAQ: 2020 Membership Fee Changes

Who is guiding the process regarding membership fee changes?

A vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is identifying viable options and considering the best way forward as we evaluate the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program.

What do you expect the new fee to be in 2020?

We do not know the amount of the expected increase at this time since this requires National Executive Committee input and approval.

Why is this happening now?

The expected membership fee increase is the direct result of a significant increase in the cost of liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities.

How will this impact the current rechartering process?

The online rechartering process will officially open as planned on October 1, 2019 for our December recharterers. The process will go forth as usual with the exception of the “calculate fees” portion, which won’t be functional until November 1st.

What should units do if they have already collected 2020 membership fees?

Unfortunately, units will need to collect the additional funds from families once the new amount is known.

When will the organization make a decision about the 2020 membership fee increase?

We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019.

