

September 2017

# National Membership Fee Increase

A few days ago, the Boy Scouts of America announced a \$9 increase to the youth and adult annual national membership fee. This fee increase is effective as of December 1, 2017 -- so it will apply to new members who join after that date. It will apply to our existing members once membership renewals occur at the end of January, 2018 as part of our annual recharter process.

As you may know, in addition to the national membership fee, our Council assesses an annual Program Insurance fee to cover a portion of the costs of providing those services to our members. We evaluate the level of that fee each year as part of our annual budgeting process. The insurance fee will increase by a modest \$1 to \$7 annually. The direct cost of insurance coverages council wide is nearly \$30,000 annually.

We recognize that the timing of this decision by the National Council is not ideal, but we wanted to get our members the information as soon as we could. Please keep in mind that this fee increase is not effective until December 1st -- new members who join prior to that date are subject to the prorated fees currently in place of \$2.50 per month.

Please contact your District Executive or the Council office with any questions.

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Included below is the information from the National Council on their Membership Fee Increase:

## 2017 Membership Fee Increase

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

To do this — while delivering the nation's foremost youth development program — the BSA must remain vigilant in controlling costs. Although we have been successful in reducing our expenditures in many areas, it has become necessary to evaluate our annual membership fees.

Based on feedback from both volunteers and employees, the BSA membership fee will increase to \$33 for all registered youth and adult leaders, effective **December 1, 2017**.

Membership fees support the services that are necessary to provide Scouting to youth from 7 to 21 years of age. From education to high-adventure experiences you can't get anywhere else, the BSA provides unique growth opportunities at a great value.

Services include primary liability coverage for all volunteer leaders and chartered organizations, ongoing advances in technology, fundraising support, new program development and membership recruiting strategies, and support materials. In 2016 alone, the BSA served 2.3 million youth members through approximately 270 local councils across the United States and its territories.

With the help of all our volunteers and Scouting parents, we will continue accomplishing incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.