



September 2013

Membership fee changes for 2014

While attending a National BSA conference last week, we learned about upcoming changes regarding membership fees that are important to share with you. Effective January 1, 2014, the Boy Scouts of America is increasing its membership fee from \$15 to \$24 per year for all registered Scouts and adults. For those who join after the beginning of the year, the fee will be prorated at \$2 per month. This includes units with a December 31, 2013 expiration date.

Please remember that 100% of the membership fee goes to the National BSA and is only processed locally by the Cascade Pacific Council.

National volunteer and professional leadership has been studying the membership fee structure for over a year. The National BSA is funded directly by the annual membership fees that we all pay when we register to be a Scout or a leader. These membership fees account for approximately 50% of the National BSA annual budget, which has seen rising costs in providing support to local Scouting.

The National BSA uses membership fees to support local Scouting by:

- Developing program materials and resources that are relevant to today's youth.
- Delivering quality and increasingly convenient training for volunteer leaders and staff.
- Providing a safe environment for Scouts with the most effective youth protection policies and systems.
- Maintaining infrastructure support for local councils such as membership and advancement databases.
- Continuing to improve the capacity of the National BSA to keep Scouting up-to-date with newer technologies.

Scouting remains one of the best values among the many activities your family could choose. \$2 per month provides a great value of once-in-a-lifetime adventures and leadership development programs only found in Scouting.

Another change affects LDS units. In 2014, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will begin to pay registration fees and unit liability insurance fees directly to the National Council. The Church of Jesus Christ unit charters and individual member registration forms will continue to be processed locally as normal, but registration and unit liability fees will no longer be collected or processed by the local council. This change will provide the Church, local councils, and the national office greater efficiencies in the administrative process.

As always, our focus is to build the leaders of this country by combining adventure, educational activities and lifelong values. This fee increase is necessary in order to continue providing the services you and our members expect and need. With your help and that of each of our volunteers and Scouting parents, we will continue accomplishing incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your District Executive. Thank you for your service to the young people of our area. We are truly grateful for all you do for Scouting and the children who participate in this great program.



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Scout Executive / CEO

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