

National Membership Fee & Council Program Fee - August 2020

A. New Member Joining Fee:

- \$25 new member joining fee for youth and participants in traditional programs (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts).
- Does not include youth in Exploring
- **Flat fee – no prorating**
- Effective August 1, 2020
- Applies for youth who register for the first time online or through paper application in traditional programs noted above.
- Must have previous member ID or proof of previous paid membership to avoid fee.
 - No new member joining fee if previously a member
 - Fee does not apply to transfers from another traditional program.

B. Full Year Membership Fee:

- \$66 fee for youth and participants (Kindergarten thru age 20) in traditional programs (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts). (\$5.50 per month).
- \$42 fee for Exploring youth and participants. (\$3.50 per month)
- \$42 for all adult volunteers in units and non-unit positions. Adults can still multiple with only one paid membership. (\$3.50 per month).
- Effective August 1, 2020 for new members
- Effective October 1, 2020 for renewing members (re-charter)

C. Full Year Council Program Fee:

- Formerly named Accident and Sickness Insurance fee.
- Minsi Trails Council Fee will be collected at unit/individual re-charter time and remain \$2 per person for 2021 Scouting year.
- Comparison of other Council Fees to Minsi Trails Council.
 - Council Program Fees are ON TOP of Unit Dues, New Member Joining Fee and Membership Fee.

Prior to 8/1	Council	After 8/1
\$1.50	PA Dutch Council, BSA	\$1.50
\$2.00	Minsi Trails Council, BSA	\$2.00
\$2.00	Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA	\$2.00
\$8.00	Hawk Mountain Council, BSA	\$12.00
\$11.00	Columbia-Montour Council, BSA	\$18.00
\$2.00	Northeast PA Council, BSA	\$30.00
\$5.00	Washington Crossings Council, BSA	\$60.00
\$9.00	Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA	\$60.00
\$12.00	Patriots Path Council, BSA	\$66.00
\$12.00	Monmouth Council, BSA	\$66.00

- How does Minsi Trails Council keep the Council Program Fee to a minimum?
 - Through the generosity of our families supporting the Family Friends of Scouting Campaign. Families support the mission at their level of giving – no obligation.
 - Annual Minsi Trails Council – Popcorn Sale. Provides opportunities to fundraise at a Scout or Unit level – no obligation.

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D. Online Registration

- Youth online registration will be able to collect current charter year pro-rated fees as well as future year full year fees for both national and the council.
- MTC will not open Adult online registrations, due to PA Act 15 clearances requirements.
- All online registrations and internet re-charters using credit card payment will be assessed the 3% administrative fee on the total amount of the transaction.

E. Paper Applications:

- Will continue at the unit level, District and Council level.
- All fees would need to be collected: New Member Fee and Membership Fee and processed by Council Registrar.

F. The following **examples** show council fees and corresponding fees if an online registration is submitted in September for December 31, 2020 charter expiration. The chart below is an example to show you the extent of the variation in fees that will be available with the online registration enhancement.

New Member Registering - Online:

Example is Current Charter Year September – December 2020 (4 Months)

Program	National New Member Joining Fee	National registration 4-month pro-rated fee	Total cost in 2020	If paid online @ 3% charge
Cub Scouts	\$25	\$22	\$47	\$48.41
Scouts BSA	\$25	\$22	\$47	\$48.41
Venturing	\$25	\$22	\$47	\$48.41
Sea Scouts	\$25	\$22	\$47	\$48.41
Exploring	\$0	\$14	\$14	\$14.42
Adults	\$0	\$14	\$14	Not Avail-online

Please note: Online registration will be able to collect current charter year pro-rated fees as well as future year full year fees.

New Member Registering - Paper:

Example is Current Charter Year September – December 2020 (4 Month)

Program	National New Member Joining Fee	National registration 4-month pro-rated fee	Total cost in 2020
Cub Scouts	\$25	\$22	\$47
Scouts BSA	\$25	\$22	\$47
Venturing	\$25	\$22	\$47
Sea Scouts	\$25	\$22	\$47
Exploring	\$0	\$14	\$14
Adults	\$0	\$14	\$14

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Future Fees for Members:

Example is New Charter Year January – December 2021

- Effective October 1, 2020 for renewing members (re-charter)

Program	National registration full year fee	Council fee full year	Total cost in 2021
Cub Scouts	\$66	\$2	\$68
Scouts BSA	\$66	\$2	\$68
Venturing	\$66	\$2	\$68
Sea Scouts	\$66	\$2	\$68
Exploring	\$42	\$2	\$44
Adults	\$42	\$2	\$44

G. Unit Charter Fee:

- \$75 fee for all units
- Effective August 1, 2020 for new and re-chartering units.

H. General Information on Fee Collection:

- Multiples will continue to be no cost via online registration or paper registration.
- All non-unit registrants pay the adult fee. Example: District/Council members.
- No fee positions (Merit Badge Counselors, Tiger/Lion Adult Partners) will not be charged a membership fee.

I. Key Areas of reminder:

- Beginning in August 2020, online registration users will be charged a 3% processing fee.
 - Any registrations that are completed via online registration will be charged this fee.
 - Registration owner cannot opt out of the 3% processing fee. He or she incurs the additional expense.
- The council and unit will no longer have the option of turning off the payment feature.
- Councils and units can continue to manage their BeAScout pins and whether the unit pins show and offer online registration. Best practice would be offer online, removing any barriers to join now.

National Correspondence on FAQ's

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?

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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?

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: In addition to the national membership fee, my council is implementing a council fee. Is that allowed?

A: Starting August 1, 2020, councils can also choose to charge a fee up to, but no more than, the national membership fee – up to \$66 for participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts; up to \$42 for participants in Exploring and up to \$42 for adult members. The council fee can include local insurance costs (i.e., accident, property, etc.), as well as the cost to administer unique local programming. Units can continue to assess activity fees. Minsi Trails Council program fee will remain at \$2 for the 2020 and 2021 scouting year.

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.