

Modernizing Fee Structures for Scouting

**Pre-Launch Discussion
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What are the benefits of Modernizing Fee Structures?

- Helps sustain Scouting and its programs by right sizing the costs versus benefit provided
- Adventure Fee subscription-based model modernizes how families pay for Scouting
- Streamlined collection of National and Council fees
- Electronic payment platform takes the burden of collecting these fees off Unit volunteers



Changes to the annual membership fee beginning April 1, 2023

- When youth initially register in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, or Venturing, they will pay **\$120 at joining**. This will incorporate the BSA National registration fee.
- Youth members pay a **\$20 Adventure Fee** subscription each month.



What's covered under the updated fees?

National

- BSA National registration fee
- Access to BSA programs and intellectual property, including advancement
- Program development and literature
- General Liability Insurance for chartered organizations and registered adults
- Internet advancement tracking and other IT infrastructure
- Access to National Events and Programs
- Background screening

Crossroads of America Council

- Accident and sickness insurance coverage for Scouts and Scouters
- Professional staff leadership and support
- Reduced Unit rates for Council facility rentals
- ★ Free Unit campsite rentals at Council camps
- ★ Two signature events per year at no additional cost
- ★ Required position training at no additional cost
- ★ 10% discount at Crossroads Outfitters on monthly specials
- ★ Member only pricing at select activities and events

★ New benefit



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+ Estimated. TBD 8/2023

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Updated Structure (Initial Year Adoption)

Current Structure

	New Scouts	Active Scouts
Joining Fee	\$25	—
Annual Fee	\$75	\$75
Accident and Sickness Insurance Fee	\$12	\$12
Unit and Other Expenses	Varies	Varies
Annual Total	\$112+	\$87+

	New Scouts	Active Scouts
Effective Date	April 1, 2023	January 1, 2024
Fall 2023 Recharter* (for 2024 Charter Year)	—	\$87+*
Joining Fee	\$100	—
Monthly Adventure Fee \$20 (or lump sum) (starts upon joining or effective date)	\$20/mo Or #mo x \$20 lump sum	\$20/mo Or \$240 lump sum
Unit and Other Expenses	TBD	TBD
Annual Total for First Year	\$340+	\$240+

*Units will complete the annual charter renewal in Fall 2023 and pay required fees as in the past.
Active youth will not begin the Adventure Fee subscription until January 2024.

The updated fee structure does not apply to Exploring, Reaching for Tomorrow, Scouting for Tomorrow, or ScoutReach.



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What cost will units and families be responsible for?

- Unit Programming
- Year-Round Outings
- Advanced Training
- Awards and Recognition
- Special Events
- Summer Camp
- High Adventure Activities
- National Jamboree

Tip: Use Ideal Year of Scouting resources to help you plan your Unit's calendar, develop a budget, and identify ways to fund it.



What support is available to Scout families to help with fees?

- Popcorn sales and other fundraisers can offset monthly fees
- Families should work through their Unit and charter organizations to see what help may be available outside of fundraising
- When local avenues are exhausted, the Council assistance program can help

Does each Scout need to pay the joining fee and the monthly Adventure Fee ?

Families will pay the one-time Joining Fee and monthly Adventure Fee for each Scout in the program.



If a Scout separates from Scouting and wants to return later, does he or she have to pay the Joining Fee again?

Yes. When a Scout separates from Scouting, the Council would not have money “escrowed” to pay the annual registration fee to the National Council and must re-collect the Joining Fee.



For current Scouts, fees do not take effect until 2024. When do benefits begin?

- Two signature events will be offered each fall, beginning in 2023, for Scouts
- Free campsite rentals will begin August 1, 2023
- Crossroads Outfitters store discounts and other benefits begin January 2024

Is there an opportunity for a lump sum payment of the Joining Fee and Adventure Fee monthly payments for my Scout?

Yes. Details will be provided when the electronic payment platform is rolled out.



Example

- Mary joins Scouting in April 2023. She pays \$100 Joining Fee, which covers the National Registration Fee. She also pays \$20 for the first month Adventure Fee.
- Beginning in May 2023, Mary pays a \$20 per month Adventure Fee for the remainder of the year. This grants her certain benefits in the Council.
- In January 2024, Mary continues with Scouting. The Council, having collected the \$20 monthly Adventure Fee over the course of the previous year, pays Mary's National Registration Fee.



Example

- John is a member of Troop 123.
- Prior to charter renewal, Troop 123 collects John's registration payment in the same way that it usually does. When the charter renewal is submitted, the Troop submits registration payments for John and others on the charter.
- During this time period, John enrolls in the Adventure Fee monthly subscription program. He begins paying \$20 per month in January 2024.
- In January 2025, John is with Scouting. The Council, having collected the \$20 monthly Adventure Fee over the course of 2024, pays John's National Registration Fee.



Next Steps

February/March

- Communication to Units and Unit Leaders in support of April roll-out
- Communication to parents of current Scouts to provide ample notice of changes prior to 2024 charter renewal
- Recruiting resources and materials updated as needed
- FAQs and How-To's for payment platform



Next Steps

April/May/June

- Spring Recruiting Drive – new Scouts join under new fee structure
- Ideal Year of Scouting Planning – Units plan 2023-2024 program year incorporating new fee structure and benefits
- Council shares charter renewal plan with Units
 - Integration of both new Scouts who are Adventure Fee participants and current Scouts who pay with charter this cycle



Next Steps

July/August/September

- Fall Recruiting
- Cub Scout Family Fun Days (event included in your membership at no additional cost)

October/November/December

- Air Show encampment (event included in your membership at no additional cost)
- Charter renewal
- Council provides Units with a list of “subscribed” Scouts for whom the Council has already collected the 2024 registration as part of their monthly Adventure Fee subscription
- Scouts enroll in Adventure Fee subscription in January



Questions and Resources

Material will be made available to support the roll-out of this program, including:

- Fact Sheet
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Updated CAC Website

For specific questions, please contact your District Executive.



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