



To: Unit Key 3's
Cc: District Key 3's; Commissioner Staff
From: Bernie Koch, Council President
Eric Hoadley, Council Commissioner
George Clay, Scout Executive/CEO
Date: 9/8/2017
RE: 2017 BSA Membership Fee Announcement

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The Boy Scouts of America has announced an increase in the national membership fee. The fee will increase from \$24 to \$33 for all registered youth and adult leaders. This is an increase of \$.75 monthly and will be effective December 1, 2017. All of these funds go directly to the National B.S.A.

It is important to note, our national organization has not increased fees since 2014. Prior to that, fees increased in 2010.

The annual national membership fees support services such as:

1. primary liability coverage for all volunteer leaders and chartered organizations
2. ongoing advances in technology
3. scout program development
4. membership recruiting strategies
5. other support materials

The primary reason for the increased fee is the escalating cost of the General Liability Insurance Program. The National Council has been subsidizing this program for several years through their endowment fund. This is no longer a sustainable model.

This fall - from August 1 through December 31 - it is projected 3,000 youth will join the W. D. Boyce Council. We have advertised via school fliers that \$32 will cover the annual membership fees from September 2017 through December 2018 (\$8 for September – December 2017, plus \$24 for January through December 2018). This will result in each family paying \$9 less than the newly announced fee.

To honor the fee of \$32 printed on all our recruiting materials and website, the W. D. Boyce Council Executive Committee has approved an allocation from special funds to cover the increased fee of \$9 for youth that join Scouting between August 1 and December 31. All currently registered members (as of July 31) will pay the new fee when their unit recharter in December 2017.

We deeply apologize for any inconvenience this might cause as we head into our "Blast Into Scouting" recruitments on September 14th.

Thank you for all you do as we head towards our 19th consecutive year as a Gold Journey to Excellence Council.