

2017 Membership Fee Increase

The Western Massachusetts Council has been notified that the National registration fees have been increased by \$9 effective Dec. 1. For further information, please read the following announcement:

Based on nationwide feedback from both volunteers and employees, the national office has increased the annual membership fee to \$33 for all registered youth and adult leaders, effective **December 1, 2017**. Please note that the money collected for membership, insurance and Boy's Life **ALL** goes to the national office and none if it stays in the Western Massachusetts Council.

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 the organization has been successful in reducing expenses in many areas, it has become necessary to increase the annual national membership fee.

Membership fees support the services and programs necessary to serve Scouting youth from 5 to 21 years of age. From education to high-adventure experiences that youth can't get anyplace else, the BSA provides unique growth opportunities at a great value.

Below is a break out of the new fee structure for 2017:

Category	Current	New	Increase
Membership	\$24	\$33	\$9
Insurance	\$3	\$4	\$1
Boy's Life	\$12	\$12	\$0
Total	\$39	\$49	\$10

Because of the increase, the Western Massachusetts Council will **NOT** be charging a program fee which had been discussed in 2016. We will continue to rely on your generous support through the efforts of our Friends of Scouting Campaign.

Membership and insurance fees 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.

Scouting still remains one of the most cost effective and best character building programs for today's youth. With the help of our volunteers and Scouting parents, we will continue accomplishing incredible things for young people and the communities we serve. Thanks for all that you do for Scouting!

David Kruse
Scout Executive