

September 25, 2019

Dear Scouters,

In the spirit of open communication we wanted to share with you news received from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America regarding a yet to be determined membership fee increase.

There are two components to the registration fee, first is the fee charged by our local council to help offset our local insurance coverages and second is the fee charged by National. The Western Massachusetts Council local insurance fee (\$7) is set for the coming year and will not change. It is the National portion of the fee (currently \$33) that is uncertain at this time.

The National Council has shared that a potential fee increase is directly tied to the significant cost increase of the liability insurance that is carried to cover all official Scouting activities. Please note that this is not a local decision, nor do we have direct input into the process. With that said, personally we know that the National Council is reviewing all options to minimize the impact, while maintaining the needed resources and requirements to support the Scouting movement.

As soon as more information becomes available, our council will share that information. Please note that our council along with National remains committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation.

We recognize that this uncertainty is not beneficial to the registration process, but we are committed to being as transparent as possible. We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019, which would take effect on January 1, 2020. The rechartering system will still open on October 1st to allow units to do their roster work.

Thank you for all that you do to make today's youth "Prepared for Life"!

A brief FAQ from National is attached, and additional information will be available as details are confirmed."

Yours in Scouting;

Jeff Glaze
Jeff Glaze
Council President

Sam Everett
Sam Everett
Council Commissioner

Marc Andrea
Marc T. Andrea
Interim Scout Executive



FAQ: 2020 Membership Fee Changes

Who is guiding the process regarding membership fee changes?

A vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is identifying viable options and considering the best way forward as we evaluate the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program.

What do you expect the new fee to be in 2020?

We do not know the amount of the expected increase at this time since this requires National Executive Committee input and approval.

Why is this happening now?

The expected membership fee increase is the direct result of a significant increase in the cost of liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities.

How will this impact the current rechartering process?

The online rechartering process will officially open as planned on October 1, 2019 for our December recharterers. The process will go forth as usual with the exception of the “calculate fees” portion, which won’t be functional until November 1st.

What should units do if they have already collected 2020 membership fees?

Unfortunately, units will need to collect the additional funds from families once the new amount is known.

When will the organization make a decision about the 2020 membership fee increase?

We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019.