

REGISTRATION FEE INCREASE

To: Scout executives

From: Wayne Brock, Assistant Chief Scout Executive/COO

The BSA Executive Board unanimously passed a resolution at the business meeting on May 22 to increase the traditional membership registration fee for all youth and adults to \$15 from its current \$10, effective Jan. 1, 2010. The last fee increase, which was from \$7 to \$10, was in 2003. The Exploring fee remains \$10.

A great deal of thought and consideration went into this decision by both the Executive Board and the Membership Fee Task Force led by National Commissioner Tico Perez. Consideration was given to an expected deficit to the National Council operating budget, the impact to program and council support, the necessary funding required over the next several years, the cost of implementing fee increases annually in systems and forms, as well as the overall fees paid by councils. Input was sought and received from staff and volunteers at the council level. Finally, given all these considerations, it was determined that the best approach was to increase the fee to the level chosen and make every effort to hold that level for a period of at least three years.

Additional support will be provided to assist in getting this message out to all employees, volunteers, and chartered organizations; however, we wanted to make sure you are aware of this in advance of all other communications.

Why is the membership fee being increased, especially now, during such difficult economic times?

The National Council is committed to providing added benefits to local councils and volunteers to support the delivery of high-quality Scouting programs in every community. A key investment continues to be in providing more user-friendly Web-based resources. For example, via MyScouting, volunteers will be able to complete even more training requirements on their own schedule, 24 hours a day, via online resources. This will complement their current ability to recharter and manage advancement records online, complete and submit tour permits, and participate in the Scouting Community social network, which continues to grow. Also, in the future, new-member registration will be available online.

As good stewards, we strive to keep costs to a minimum. And, we are proud that, even with this increase, youth can receive the full benefits of Scouting membership for only \$1.25 per month.

The National Executive Board reviewed revenue and expense projections along with the planned initiatives over the next several years, recognizing that the annual registration fee would not meet expenses. The Board decided that the fee could be increased each year or every other year to keep pace with the expected expenditures, or that it could be raised to the level chosen and held in place over the next several years.

When was the last registration fee increase?

In 2003, the registration fee increased to \$10 from \$7—an increase of 43 percent. The new registration fee will be implemented a full 7 years since the last increase and at 50 percent, only slightly higher than the 2003 increase.

How long do you expect this fee to be in place?

The National Executive Board, in its approved resolution, noted that it would endeavor to hold this new fee level at least three years.

How do we implement this fee increase? When will the materials be available?

The Membership Resources Team within the Membership Impact Department is preparing a detailed project plan that will implement this change across all the information systems, the applications, and other documents. Early information will be shared with council registrars via the *News & Notes* newsletter. Other detailed information will be available early in the fourth quarter to ensure a smooth transition on January 1, 2010. Fortunately, the National Executive Board made an early decision so that all this could be planned and implemented over the next several months. Note, too, that a larger increase at this time will forego the costs that would be incurred by implemented several smaller changes more frequently.

Fee Increase FAQs for Field staff and Registrars

Q. When does the registration fee increase take effect?

A. All traditional Scouting registrations with an effective date of January 1, 2010, or later will pay the new \$15 registration fee or prorated fee of \$1.25 per month.

Q. How do you determine who pays the current \$10 registration fee and who pays the increased \$15 registration fee?

A. The registration fee is based on the effective date of the registration. Any registration for traditional Scouting with an effective date before January 1, 2010, will pay the \$10 registration fee or prorated fee of \$0.85 a month. Any registration for traditional Scouting with an effective date after December 2009 will pay the \$15 registration fee or prorated fee of \$1.25 per month.

Q. If a unit that expires December 31, 2009, submits its registration renewal online through Internet Rechartering before January 1, 2010, should they pay the current \$10 registration fee or the increased \$15 registration fee?

A. They should pay the \$15 registration fee because the effective date of the renewal will be January 1, 2010.

Q. When assembling charter renewal packets for units with a December 31, 2009, expiration date, which Youth and Adult Application, Unit Budget Plan, and Fee Chart (Registration and Subscription Information form) should be included?

A. *The applications and form that reflects the \$15 registration fee should be included since ALL registrations with a January 1, 2010, effective date or later will pay the new \$15 registration fee. (Adult and Youth Applications with the new registration fee are in the process of being printed.)*

Q. Who pays the new \$15 registration fee?

A. *All youth and adults registrations for traditional Scouting with an effective date of*

January 1, 2010, or later will pay a registration fee based on the \$15 registration fee rate of \$1.25 per month. This includes all additional enrollments to current units, new units, and charter renewals.