



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®
LONGHOUSE COUNCIL

Council Resource & National Registration Fee

Frequent questions and answers:

Starting in February 2017 with our unit re-charters, Longhouse Council will begin a **\$60 Council Resource and National Registration Fee** for each registered Scout and Scouter. Here are some of the more frequent questions and answers surrounding this policy change.

Doesn't Council already get funding from my registration?

No. The entire current fee of \$24 goes to National BSA. The additional \$1.20 in insurance is for local required coverage but only reflects a small percentage of the actual cost of approximately \$10 per Scout and Scouter.

Why such a dramatic increase? How long is it good for?

This isn't an increase as much as it is a different fee system altogether. To date local Councils do not receive any funding from the BSA registration fee. Due to many reasons the Longhouse Council Board has decided to implement this new fee structure to stabilize local Council finances and ensure continued delivery of a quality local Scouting program. **It is \$5/month, just a \$3 monthly increase with all additional proceeds staying with local Scouting.** We anticipate the current fee being in place for at least three years before a modest increase would be considered. Changes in the law or National BSA policy currently unknown to us could influence this fee at any time.

What prompted this decision by the Longhouse Council Board?

Several items influenced this decision, which frankly has been under discussion for over 10 years. First, demographic changes to the Council Service Area have eliminated many business leaders and corporate participants from our fund raising prospects. They have moved out of New York State. The Council has run low six-figure deficits for the last two years. While this debt is managed and is being retired we don't want to run the risk of continuing a trend of deficit operation. Finally, the imposition of mandatory minimum staff salaries by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act take effect for most businesses and not for profits on December 1, 2016, and will dramatically increase our payroll for many on our professional staff by law. We do not view a field staff reduction as a viable option in order to maintain proper delivery of local Scouting. While our financial situation is not an emergency the Board felt it prudent to act before it became one when our choices to act would be limited.

Will there be other changes as a result of this fee?

With the stability of finances secured due to this new fee we will be able to maintain a concentration on direct service to units by our Field Staff. A staff re-alignment will be announced, likely in November 2016, as we finalize plans that are part of the natural progression of the Scouting profession.

What else is Council doing to protect it's financial future?

Plenty! First, summer camping numbers are up 10% due to the great work of staff and volunteers. Our Cub Scout membership is up 7.5%. Both of these numbers are key indicators of future financial and program successes. We have kicked-off a \$5 million Endowment Campaign chaired by former Council President Arnold Rubenstein. Finally, Scout Executive Grey Rolland, Council professional and volunteer staff and our Executive Committee have worked hard to contain cost and gain efficiencies wherever they can and it's working. The Council is very close to budgeted revenue and cost projections for 2016.

Are we the first Council to institute such a change?

No. A small number of Councils have made this decision and most have experienced a positive change as a result. Most recently our neighbors at Twin Rivers Council in Albany have successfully switched to this fee model.

What if I have more questions?

Please do not be afraid to ask Unit, District and Council leadership should you have additional questions.