

National BSA Member Fee Increase 2023

Dear Scouting family,

We received the following very important message from our national council and wanted to share it with you in its entirety.

BSA's emergence from bankruptcy represents a pivotal milestone in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)'s financial restructuring case and solidifies a path forward for survivors and the Scouting movement.

To preserve its mission, the BSA has had to take some extraordinary steps over the past three years to reposition the organization for the future. The BSA has streamlined its professional staff and volunteer structure, reducing costs throughout the movement while maintaining essential services to support the local councils who were critical partners during the bankruptcy.

To position Scouting for the future, the BSA will be required to increase the national annual membership fees for both youth and adults. This has been a difficult decision that involved the engagement of key stakeholders, but is essential to building a strong, safe, and vibrant Scouting program for our nation's youth.

Effective **August 1, 2023**, the BSA will implement the following national membership fees which were approved by the National Executive Committee:

- **\$80** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants (\$5 increase)
- **\$60** for all adult volunteers (\$15 increase to provide

general liability insurance and enhanced background checks)

- **\$25** one-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting (Not prorated and no change in fee)
- **\$30** for Scoutreach (Not prorated)
- **\$25** for Merit Badge Counselors (New Fee applies only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders)
- **\$50** for Exploring participants Youth & Adult (\$5 increase)
- **\$100** for a unit charter/affiliation fee (no change in fee)
- **\$15** for *Scout Life* magazine

New Annual Membership Fee Process Announced – BSA Will No Longer Prorate Fees for New Members beginning August 1, 2023

Beginning August 1, 2023, all new youth and adult members who join Scouting will be enrolled in a 12-month membership cycle and BSA will cease prorating fees. Both youth and adults will pay the full annual membership fee and will renew their membership on the anniversary date of joining Scouting. All proration of membership fees will be eliminated. Each registered member of the BSA will receive an email notice with a registration renewal link beginning 60 days before the anniversary date they joined Scouting. Unit leaders will receive a copy of the email and should stay engaged in the membership renewal process just like rechartering.

It is important to note, existing members will renew their membership during their normal registration/recharter cycle through March 2024. Moving forward all members will renew on their anniversary date.

- Existing members' Anniversary date will be their unit recharter month.
- New members' Anniversary date will be the month they

joined.

This new process will help streamline the rechartering and membership renewal process for units and councils. *Additional information on this membership renewal process will be forthcoming in the very near future.*

Rules and Regulations – Local Council Annual Registration or Program Fees

Under the Rules and Regulations of the BSA, a local council may charge an annual registration or program fee to youth members, adult program participants and Scouters whose primary registration is with the council in an amount not to exceed the amount of the applicable individual registration fee for their position established by the Executive Committee. In the new Annual Membership fee structure, a local council may charge a maximum of **\$80 per youth** and **\$60 per adult**.

What does the National Membership Fee cover?

The national membership fee helps cover the cost of essential services to the local council and units. Services include expanded liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, enhanced criminal background checks, a variety of program resources, youth protection and leader-specific training, and the development of intellectual property for national, council, and unit programs. As BSA moves forward, the organization will continue to look at the membership fee structure and how we deliver the Scouting program for future generations.

Across the country and in each of our communities, we know that Scouting remains one of the most valuable investments we can make in youth today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow. Our dedicated volunteers, staff, and Scouting families make this possible. Thank you for continuing to support one of the most valuable opportunities available to young people today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is driving the youth and adult membership fee increase?

- General Liability Insurance costs to protect volunteer leaders, staff, charter organizations, units, and youth.
- BSA restructuring costs.
- Enhanced Criminal Background check processes and investments in Youth protection and safety programs.

What steps has the National Service Center taken to manage costs?

- Completed a new staff structure and streamlined both the professional workforce and the volunteer structure, while maintaining essential services.
- Reduced the National staff workforce to support essential services.
- Reduced expenses throughout the National organization.

What is the new membership fee for youth and adults? Will the fees go up again?

- The new adult membership fee is \$60, and the youth membership fee is \$80 annually.
- The BSA will continue to evaluate the membership fees and keep our councils and unit leaders informed of any further changes to the fee structure.

What benefits and services are provided to the local council with the new fee?

- Expanded GLIP protections for Chartered Organizations

and volunteers.

- Enhanced Criminal Background checks.
- Investments in BSA safety resources and training.
- The employment of a new Youth Protection Executive and support staff.
- The National Council provides the following essential services to councils:
 - The use of BSA Intellectual Property – Youth Safety, Cub Scouts, Scouts, BSA, Venturing, Camp Standards, Training and Program development etc.
 - Legal
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology – Rechartering, Scout Book
 - Accounting Resources
 - Council Services Support
 - Membership & Marketing Support
 - Crisis Communications and support
 - Safety & Membership Standards Support
 - A variety of training support for youth and adult leaders
 - Health Insurance & Benefits

What benefits and services are provided to the unit with the registration fee?

- Expanded General Liability Insurance protections for the chartered organization and unit leaders in the event of an incident.
- Program research and development including, Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Exploring.
- Access to Youth Protection Training, Incident Reporting and Scouts First Helpline: 1- 844-Scouts1.
- Access to leadership specific training for adult leaders.
- Investments in program literature and resource development.

- Ability to purchase Uniforms, Insignia and Recognition for youth and Adults.
- Provides access to Membership, Marketing, and Brand Center resources.
- Provides important technology support including Scout Book, on-line registration, on-line advancement, and rechartering, My. Scouting, BeAScout, and BSA Brand Center for digital assets.
- Access to the four BSA High Adventure Properties including Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier High Adventure Base, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Mayflower Council understands that you may have more questions, and we will welcome them at our Summer Membership Roundtable Series taking place in the coming months. You can register by clicking the date for July 11 and August 16.

Gone Camping! Mayflower Council Summer Hours

This weekend marks the unofficial start of summer 2023. As such, the Mayflower Council Service Center will soon switch to a “Camping Season” schedule.

Our Service Center in Milford, Massachusetts, will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

After that, and through Labor Day, the Service Center will be by appointment only on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday and Thursday. Many of our unit and membership service personnel will be visiting communities and

camps throughout the summer, so chances are you can catch up with us much closer to home.

Find a listing and email any of our council primary contacts via this page.

VOA Officer Applications

Applications to become a 2023-2024 officer are being accepted until Monday, June 5th!

The mission of the Mayflower Council Venturing Officers' Association (VOA) is to promote and support the Venturing program, utilizing a standard organizational structure that enables Crews to grow their membership and advance leadership opportunities through communication, program, and administration. This mission is met through a team of officers supported by an Advisor that keeps the VOA organized. This forum provides a voice for youth to help strengthen the Venturing program. The VOA holds several meetings during the year and hosts a few events that help to bring the crews, districts, and the council together. Each event may have a different goal: training, adventure, recognition, fun—or all of the above.

Becoming a VOA officer will give you the chance to meet other Venturers, serve others, and build friendships and networks. Positions open include: President, Vice President of Program, Vice President of Administration, and Vice President of Communication. If you have any questions on specific responsibilities or more, do not hesitate to reach out to us via email.

Council Venturing Leadership Award Nominations

Do You Know an Exceptional Venturer? Nominate them for the Venturing Leadership Award!

To recognize Venturers and Advisors who have made exceptional contributions to Venturing and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, the Mayflower Council may present individuals with the Council Venturing Leadership Award.

Qualifications

- Be registered and involved as a Venturer for at least one year.
- Hold a leadership position or an office at the unit, district, council.
- Show exceptional dedication and give outstanding leadership and service to Venturing and to Venturers.

Guidelines

- The nomination form linked below must be used for Council Venturing Leadership Award consideration.
- The nomination form must be submitted by June 5, 2023.
- Youth nominations may be submitted for up to one year past the youth's 21st birthday.
- For Questions or Letters of Recommendation Submissions: contact Aaron Christian.

Nomination Form

Mary Millette of Den 1 in Pack 3104 in Hudson

Mary the Mentor

Now in her third year in charge of Den 1 (her son Ben's den; older brother Connor recently crossed over to Scouts BSA, Troop 77 in Hudson), Mary says this year's highlights include volunteering with "Kylee's Care Kits" and the "Feed A Neighbor" programs. "I like connecting scouting to our community and providing opportunities for the Scouts to make a difference," she explained.

Next up was the "Super Science Adventure" and working toward the Up and Away Nova award. "It was great to see the parents and kids work together on science experiments," added Mary. "This year, we did so much with science between this adventure and the Nova award. I am blown away by what my scouts know and the ideas they bring to the table."

Finally, attending "Snore and Roar" at the Roger Williams Zoo was very high on Millette's list.

"But getting to know my scouts and their families" remains the ultimate highlight for Mary.

"We have such a great group of kids," she explained. "They are funny, eager to learn and help, and have such great ideas."

Congratulations to Mary and her Pack 3104 Den 1 Bears!

Council Support For Units & Scout Families

What Does Mayflower Council Do For Units & Scout Families?

To help unit leaders, the council maintains a service center with administrative staff to:

- Assist with online registrations, Scout Life subscriptions, and initiate special requests to the National Service Center and other organizations.
- Maintain a supply of literature, insignia, forms, certificates, etc., needed by the leader to carry on the unit's program.
- Keep records of advancement, membership, training, etc. necessary to unit operation.
- Publish a weekly newsletter to keep leaders informed of the latest local and national Scouting news, coming events, etc.
- Produce notices, minutes, agendas, etc., for district and council committees that are developing programs for leader and unit benefit.
- Handle inquiries and visitors to our service center for information related to unit operation and Scouting procedures.
- Provide a myriad of forms, applications, certificates and literature helpful in the unit program.
- Produce district and council calendars and schedules, programs, kits and special aids to assist leaders and their committees.
- Manage reservations for long-term camping, short-term camps, camporees, jamborees, high adventure bases, training courses, meetings, annual council and district

meetings, troop leader and den leader events.

To protect the unit leader, the council:

- Maintains a liability policy for the protection of all leaders and chartered organizations.
- Maintains accident and sickness insurance policy for all registered youth and leaders.
- Screens requests for services and money earning proposals, guarding against improper use of Scouting for commercialism and exploitation.
- Has staff members available on what is practically an around-the-clock, around-the-calendar basis to meet any emergency.
- Manages and processes Criminal Offender Records Inquiry (CORI) checks
- Provides assistance with any Youth Protection issues that may arise.

To help the leader develop unit program, the council provides without charge:

- Program helps, calendar of activities, meetings and special events.
- Awards, such as ribbons, certificates, recruiting awards, etc.
- Recruitment supplies including posters, fliers, digital targeted advertising and other materials.
- Sample ceremonies, parent's night program outlines, training aids, etc.
- Source materials and personnel.
- Materials, books, pamphlets, folders, videos and special helps from the National Council and cooperating organizations.

In the field of camping and outdoor activities,

the council:

- Maintains three Scout camps, with a total of 1,500 acres, for year-round camping and Cub Scout family outdoor events. Our Scout camps serve as year-round activities, camping and training centers.
- Offers units the use of equipment for short-term, weekend, and year-round camping.
- Covers costs of camp improvement, repairs, replacement, maintenance, insurance and administration. These and other charges are not paid for by Scout's fees.
- Employs full-time camp rangers for the protection of the Scout camps and the convenience of units using facilities. They keep these facilities ready and available for unit and family use.
- Provides campers' early-bird savings discounts, unit leaders' guidebook, camp videos, literature and other aids to help units with their program.
- Provides scholarships or "camperships" for Scouts who need some financial help to have a summer camp experience.
- Offers units and individual youth access to high-adventure bases like Philmont Scout Ranch, Northern Tier and Sea Base, national jamborees, field days, camporees and other special events. These would not exist without the council giving leadership and coordination.

In educational and relationship building programs, the council provides the leader with:

- A library of videos, digital projectors and screens for use in training and promotional programs.
- Informal and formal training courses with most of the cost of literature and materials, etc., and all the staff time included in the council budget.
- Monthly roundtables for the benefit of leaders, committee persons, assistants, and den leaders,

providing materials, staff and other costs.

- Scouter's Key, training awards, Den Leader's Training Award, Silver Beaver, District Award of Merit and other Scouter recognitions.
- A merit badge counselor corps in more than 130 subjects.
- A variety of advancement forms and certificates without charge.

Providing the unit with district and council activities and service, the council:

- Plans and conducts various types of activities in which units participate such as Freeze Out/Klondike Derby, Pinewood Derby and Scouting for Food.
- Organizes camporees, Cub Scout day camps, jamborees, high-adventure trips, absorbing some overhead costs to keep participants' expenses to a minimum.
- Works with various community groups to arrange for Scout participation in civic affairs and Good Turn projects.
- Recruits and trains a corps of commissioners for assisting with unit program and maintaining standards.

To assist leaders, the council employs a trained full-time staff who counsel, guide and inspire:

- Through person-to-person counseling on unit relationships, administrative and operational challenges.
- Through guidance of all committees, commissioners, roundtables, meetings, conferences, courses, district and council activities in the development of programs that directly benefit leaders and units.
- Through contacts with the community resources (clubs, churches, government, etc.), secure help for all units that they alone could not obtain. The use of parks, recreational areas, use of buildings for special events, picnic areas, campsites, and meeting facilities are a few examples.

Workshop: Understanding New Barriers to Abuse

As part of our ongoing commitment to abuse prevention, the BSA is updating the adult supervision requirements for overnight activities.

In this workshop, we will discuss:

- Enhancements to the minimum “two deep leadership” requirements.
- The definition of an adult fee required position.
- Limited exceptions for Cub Scout Parents and Guardians.
- Scenarios and examples.
- Required date for policy adoption.

Scouts Honor: Everett L., Troop 89 Medfield

“On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

That’s what the “Scout Oath” says. And for all BSA Scouts, that serious statement remains omnipresent. But for certain Scouts, the desire to live by the Scout Oath becomes a primary

focus.

For that reason (and many others, certainly) Everett L., of Medfield's Troop 89, will soon receive a Congressional Award gold medal – the U.S. Congress' highest award for youth civilian service; an achievement that "recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in America's youth."

Much like Scouting, participants in the Congressional program set goals across four areas – public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration.

Those who earn the Congressional Award complete a minimum of 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness, and a minimum of a five-day, four-night expedition/exploration (over two years).

In 2021, over 50,000 students across the US enrolled, with only 5,000 being recognized for any award and only 517 receiving the gold. Nearly 2,000 of the applicants came from New England, and last year, just one gold was given out in New Hampshire and eight in Massachusetts for 19 total across the six New England states.

Since the program's inception in 1979, approximately 6,000 gold medals have been awarded and Scouts BSA has been a partner program of the Congressional Award since 1999.

"Most of my activities for the Eagle Scout rank counted towards the requirements of the Congressional Award," explained Everett, whose family lives in Meredith, New Hampshire. "I also looked for ways to use technology in service projects; STEM tutoring for local students, 3D printing of objects for the handicapped, and creating educational drone videos."

Of course, service is a way of life for the Scout, who attends New Hampton School (also in New Hampshire) as a member of the Class of 2024, twice earning the NHS award for "100 Hours of

Service.”

“Everett is a very hardworking, independent young man. He accepts new challenges without second guessing and is a perfect model of a community citizen,” said Mr. Ryan Daye, Everett’s advisor at NHS. “I am grateful to have him in my advisory group here at The New Hampton School.”

“Everett comes in and gets the work done,” added Mr. Tony Mure, also of NHS. “Everett is a shining example of hard work, discipline, and focus. His ability to work independently and follow directions is second to none.

“He is a natural-born leader.”

Everett’s Scouting resume says the same.

“Everett is a ‘Scout’s Scout’ who came in as a sixth grader with no background in Cub scouts,” said Scoutmaster Jim Hatch in his commendation for the Eagle Badge [completed in May of 2022].

“His passion for engineering is very clear,” added Hatch. “His integration of his love of technology and the medal’s service requirements is very creative.”

A member of the Tantamous Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, where his ordeal and vigil hours counted towards his Congressional Award service requirements, Everett used Scouting as a scaffold for the Congressional program.

“It really builds off of Scouting,” he said. “And then it gives you the flexibility to create service projects that you design, which is where I was able to look for ways to use technology and engineering to help my community.”

Meanwhile, pursuing the Congressional award is also a family affair, Everett’s mother, Wendy,, was recognized for the Bronze Medal out of Culpeper, Virginia as a high school senior in 1994. Everett’s sister, Lillian, Inter-Lakes class of 2026,

is currently pursuing a medal.

“Service is important to our family, the award is a great program, and Troop 89 is a wonderful way for young people to learn about helping others,” said Wendy.

“I’ll get a degree in engineering,” added Everett. “My service projects have really shown me how to use technology and science for the betterment of the community and I will continue that.”

However, for now, the Scouting adventure continues.

Everett is one of the 14 members of Troop 89 who will be hiking through the New Mexico back country at Philmont Scout Ranch in July of 2023 and plans to attend the Troop’s annual week at Camp Squanto near Plymouth, MA.

Congratulations and “Good Scouting!” Everett.

—

Fred Lybrand contributed to this report.

Changes to Council Activity Fee Aug. 1, 2023

Dear Mayflower Families,

Thank you for your commitment to Scouting. We truly appreciate you being part of our council and an essential part of your local unit.

We know how important it is for a Scout (and a family) to be “thrifty.” Our non-profit organization looks to model that

point of the Scout Law in everything we do. Moreover, like many, our leadership group felt the need to tighten the Scout belt over the last few years, to stem the tide of rising post-pandemic costs and inflation.

The Mayflower Council also works constantly to raise the bar and expand our program while remaining focused on ensuring its safety and high caliber. In order to maintain our commitment to quality, innovation, and safety, we will soon implement our first activities fee increase since 2021.

Effective August 1, the activity fee will increase from \$36 to \$48 per youth member. While we never like to raise our fees, we hope that this nominal increase – just an extra dollar per month – doesn't burden your family too significantly.

We believe our program costs remain reasonable, especially considering the scope, quality, and safety of the Mayflower Council mission. But if this increase (or other circumstances) creates an unnecessary financial hurdle, please [click here](#) to learn about our financial aid opportunities.

Finally, if you have any questions about this or any other aspect of Scouting in the Mayflower Council, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours in Scouting,

Ian Johnson
Council President

Rich Carlson
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive / CEO

District Award Nominations

All districts are accepting nominations for District Award of Merit as well as recognitions for other outstanding Scouters:

Nomination for District Awards – due April 15

- Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Venturing crew advisor, committee chair (for any unit) and charter organization representative of the year awards
- Unsung Hero Award – someone who goes above and beyond in the district.
- “Sparkplug” – each pack, troop, or crew can recognize one of their adult leaders for going above and beyond.

Nomination for the District Award of Merit – due April 15

The District Award of Merit is a council award presented by districts in the same manner that the Silver Beaver is a national

award presented by councils. The award is available to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the district level. This nomination form must be sent via email to: Mayflower Awards

The district will typically present the awards at the annual district recognition dinner.