

# **“Around The Campfire” Podcast – Episode Two**

Monthly Podcast from the Mayflower Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

March 2024 episode, hosted by Rob DiFazio, features:

- Interview with Juan Osorio, Scout Executive for the Mayflower Council
- Eagle Scout Project Do's and Dont's with Tom Bedarz, Advancement Chair and Logan Ferraro, Program Director
- Summer 2024 Camp Update with Ryan Piazza, Camping Director

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# **“Around The Campfire” Podcast – Episode One**

Check out Mayflower Council's "Around The Campfire" Podcast, a new show designed specifically for unit leaders and volunteers. Hosted by Rob DiFazio, an Eagle Scout from East Bridgewater serving on the Membership & Unit Service Team, this episode of the podcast covers a variety of topics, including Webelos to Scout transitions with Wood Badge-trained Scouter David Laucirica, and Eagle Scout Aaron Christian (both from the Membership & Unit Service Team). Logan Ferraro, Program Executive, gives an overview of BlackPug and CampDocs, as well as upcoming events. Additionally, Rich Carlson, our Council Commissioner, provides an update on our new Scout executive. Don't miss out on this informative podcast!

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# 2024 Annual Membership Fee Update

Effective **April 1, 2024**, the BSA will **eliminate the \$25 one-time joining fee** for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting.

- **\$85/yr** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants (\$5 increase)
- **\$65/yr** for all adult volunteers (\$5 increase)
- **\$30/yr** for Scoutreach (No change in fee)
- **\$25/yr** for Merit Badge Counselors (No change in fee. Only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders)
- **\$50/yr** for Exploring participants Youth & Adult (No change in fee)
- **\$100/yr** unit renewal/affiliation fee (No change in fee)
- **\$15/yr** for Scout Life magazine (No change in fee)
- Council Program Fee will remain at \$48 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants until July 31, 2024 and then will increase to \$68 on August 1, 2024

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## Always Room for More – Earn A

# Recruiter Patch

Always Room for More

Earn your “Recruiter” patch in 2023

The founder of the Scouting movement, Sir Robert Baden Powell – better known as B-P in Scout circles – once said:

“An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual.” In the spirit of that wise sentiment, the Mayflower Council is looking for some recruiting help.

And who better to ask than the Scouts themselves?

During the months of November and December, we encourage individual Scouts to look to their friend groups and ask potential Scouts to join them at a meeting.

Scouts who successfully recruit a friend will receive a “Recruiter” patch courtesy of the Mayflower Council – we’ll provide it free!

There are three steps to earn the badge:

1. Encourage your Scouts to encourage a friend to attend an upcoming meeting or event and join before December 31.
2. When a Scout recruits their friend, a Scoutmaster or Cubmaster completes this form.
3. We will ship the Recruiter Badge to your unit to award to your recruiters as part of your next Court of Honor or rank advancement. We will also send the newly enrolled Scout a “Welcome” letter.

It’s as simple as that.

Meanwhile, we’re hoping to build on the work everyone put in during “Join Scouting Day” and “Slices for Scouting” and bring

even more youth into BSA membership via Mayflower Council.

And we know that our Scouts are up for the challenge. So, let's get to it!

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## Slices for Scouting

# A Night With Friends & Fun to Kickstart a New Year of Scouting in the Mayflower Council!

### What It Is

**What:** Fun, easy-to-host, one-night “pizza party” launch for 2022 – 2023 “sponsored” by the Mayflower Council

**When :** Any date in October 2022

**Where:** Your unit at the venue of choice...just need a YouTube-ready TV

**Who:** You, your Scouting group and prospective Scouting families

**How:** See the agenda for the evening below

# The Agenda: What Happens At Slices For Scouting

Scouts & friends eat pizza

Watch the Mayflower Council video on YouTube

Units share a slide show

Scouts share stories & upcoming adventures

Answer questions & invite to next meeting

Give out prizes to those in attendance  
Ready to join? Fill out application online

## How It Works: Your Step-By-Step Guide

1: Choose a Slices for Scouting Party HostRick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:15:36-04:00

### 1: Choose a Slices for Scouting Party Host

Choose a parent who will lead your “Slices for Scouting” party event.

Duties will be to lead the next steps.

2. Order Your Party PackRick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:26:11-04:00

### 2. Order Your Party Pack

Order your Slices for Scouting Kit below!

Loading...

3: Confirm Date/LocationRick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:27:31-04:00

### 3: Confirm Date/Location

**Determine date, time and location** for the unit Slices for Scouting Party with parents/unit leadership.

The council video will go “live” on YouTube at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 1 and be available any time thereafter.

4. Promote on Social Media and Accept Requests to Attend  
Rick Riopelle 2022-08-12T16:38:29-04:00

### 4. Promote on Social Media and Accept Requests to Attend

1. Create a Google Form to collect names of prospective Scouts who would like to attend in response your Facebook Post. The form should include:

- YES! I would like to attend your Pizza Party to learn more about Scouts BSA!
- Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- How did you hear about us ?
- Questions/Comments

2. Promote your pizza party on your unit Facebook page and share in your community Facebook pages with a link to the Google Form. Be sure to include information on the date, time and location of your party, as well as a date for them to sign up by. SAMPLE:

*From taking your first hike in the mountains...to starting your first campfire...Scouts BSA is about testing your limits and pushing yourself to do things you never thought possible. Don't let adventure pass you by! Check out our troop today!*

*Learn more at our New Member Pizza Party on Friday, October 14th from 6 to 7:30PM at First Congregational*

*Church, 123 Main Street; Milford! Click the link below for your personal invitation!*

5. Invite Your Guests via Text (Sample Copy & Image)Rick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:42:23-04:00

## **5. Invite Your Guests via Text (Sample Copy & Image)**

### **Text for parents to send to friends:**

*Hi (NAME)! Our Scout unit is hosting a pizza party to kick off the new school year and I'd love to invite you and (SON/DAUGHTER). We'll have pizza, prizes and would love to share some of the fun we have in store to get our kids unplugged, outdoors and having fun this year!*

**Text for Slices for Scouting Party Host or leader to send to Scouts who dropped or have requested more information from your area (the Mayflower Council will send you a list of any prospects):**

Hi (NAME)! My name is (YOUR NAME) and I'm with Scout (troop/ship/crew NUMBER). Our Scout unit is hosting a pizza party to kick off the new year of Scouting and I'd love to invite you and (SON/DAUGHTER). We'll have pizza, prizes and would love to share some of the fun we have in store to get our kids unplugged, outdoors and having fun this year!

**Social Media Images to Include** (right click to download)



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6. Follow Up, Confirm RSVP by September 17Rick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:43:10-04:00

## **6. Follow Up, Confirm RSVP by September 17**

Slices for Scouting Party host should follow up with parents about attendees and prepare the pizza order.

7. Create a SlideshowRick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:44:01-04:00

## **7. Create a Slideshow**

Assign an adult or Scout to create a short photo slideshow presentation of your unit's adventures. This is an easy, friendly way to get your Scouts talking about the fun things you do!

8. Prepare to Party!Rick Riopelle2022-08-12T16:45:11-04:00

## **8. Prepare to Party!**

Party packs will be delivered the week of September 22.

It will include your \$30 Dominos gift card which should cover at least 3 medium pizzas. (You may need to order more.) It will also include prizes, quick start guides and more. Instructions & tips for a successful event will also be

included.

9. Follow Up After the Party (Sample Copy) Rick  
Riopelle 2022-08-12T16:45:53-04:00

## 9. Follow Up After the Party (Sample Copy)

Follow up with prospective Scout parents with the following:

*Hi (NAME)! It was so great to have you at our pizza party! I hope you enjoyed it. Do you have any further questions? I'd also like to invite you and (SON/DAUGHTER) to our upcoming Scout meeting on (DATE/TIME) at (LOCATION/ADDRESS). It's going to be super fun!*

Scouts BSA Boy Troop Mayflower Council YouTube Video

Scouts BSA Girl Troop Mayflower Council YouTube Video

## Pizza – Party – Prizes

Hosted by You, Sponsored by the Mayflower Council



**Deadline to Register:  
September 18, 2023**

Register Your Scout Unit Today!

## What you'll receive:

- \$30 gift card to order Dominos pizza
- Prize pack including fun giveaways, stickers & more
- Event "how-to-guide"
- Quick start guides
- Online application QR code

## Keys to Success

**Keep it Personal:** Have each parent invite one other new parent/child

**Keep it Simple:** You may elect to have a game or activity or keep the "party" as simple as you like.

**Keep it Small:** this allows for more conversation and questions with new parents & Scouts.

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## 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.

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# **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.

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## **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.
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## **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

# Congratulations To Our On Time Recharter Units

Congratulation to the following units that completed their unit recharter on time this year (by November 15). Completing their unit's charter renewal by November 15 allowed our staff to review and reach back out to them if there were issues. Their charters will be the first ones to post in January.

- Crew 355 Newton
- Pack 36 Randolph
- Pack 41 Marlborough
- Pack 47 Plymouth
- Pack 59 Whitman
- Pack 140 Wellesley
- Pack 355 Newton
- Pack 4480 Kingston
- Troop 1 BT Stow
- Troop 17 BT Brockton
- Troop 42 BT Easton
- Troop 51 BT Manomet
- Troop 64 BT Plymouth
- Troop 88 BT Bridgewater
- Troop 99 BT Franklin
- Troop 100 BT Westboro
- Troop 126 BT Franklin
- Troop 355 GT Newton
- Troop 355 BT Newton

Our council's Membership & Unit Service Team is committed to

helping all of our units recharter by December 31. If your unit needs assistance don't hesitate to contact us.