

2023 Annual Membership Fee Updates

There were several changes made to membership fees and rechartering processes effective August 1, 2023 and we'd like to provide you with some detailed information regarding these changes:

- 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**.
- Each registered member of the BSA will receive an email notice with a registration renewal link beginning 60 days before the **anniversary month** they joined Scouting. Unit leaders will receive a copy of the email and should stay engaged in the membership renewal process just like rechartering.

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
- **\$25** for Merit Badge Counselors (**New Fee applies only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders**)
- **\$50** for Exploring participants Youth & Adult
- **\$100** for a unit charter/affiliation fee
- **\$15** for *Scout Life* magazine

Key Updates for Charter Renewals:

- Units with February 29, 2024, expiration (most of the Golden Spread Council Units)- Unit will automatically lapse after 1 month. This means your unit drops on the first day of April 2024

Membership Renewal Process:

- All membership in the BSA will be renewed on a 12-month membership cycle.
- Each member, youth, or adult will renew their membership on their anniversary month. Many will have an anniversary that is the month their unit renewed last, and any new members will renew 12 months after they joined.
- Membership renewals will be completed either by credit card with a 12-month renewal payment from the individual, by a scout unit that has elected "Unit will pay all our members renewals" option, or by a manual payment at the Council Office.

Unit Charter Renewal

To simplify the unit charter process, **membership renewals will no longer be tied to the unit charter process;**

Beginning for units expiring in March 2024; units will still renew their charters separate from their membership. The process will be much simpler as the system will validate the unit leadership and verify the unit has the minimum required youth and adults. The COR and council will approve the leadership, the unit will approve the charter, and the unit will submit the annual unit charter renewal fee of \$100.

New Members:

These are the new scouts we are about to recruit this fall.....

- Beginning August 1, 2023, all new youth and adult members will join for a **12-month membership cycle**. Both youth and adults will pay the full annual membership fee to join Scouting and will **renew their membership on the anniversary month of joining**.
- New members joining after July 31, 2023, will begin their annual membership renewal in July 2024. This will be tied to the anniversary month of joining.
- Each member of the BSA will receive an email notice with a registration renewal link beginning 60 days before the anniversary month of joining.

Existing Members:

- Beginning August 1, 2023, all youth and adult membership renewals will be for a 12-month membership cycle.
- Charter Renewal will remain unchanged for units due to charter through February 2024.
- Renewing members will renew their membership on their anniversary month.
- Each member will receive an email renewal notice reminder beginning 60 days before the anniversary month.

Merit Badge Counselors:

- Beginning in August 2023, merit badge counselors **who are not registered as an adult leader in a unit** will pay an annual \$25 fee.
- Merit badge counselors are not registered in a unit position and therefore are not allowed to attend overnight Scouting activities/events.

Here is an example:

P123's charter expires on February 29, 2024 (most of our units do). When you log-in to the rechartering process, you will see all the scouts and adults who are registered. You will see they all expire on February 29, 2024. You will also see all the new Scouts and Adults who were recently recruited (On or after August 1, 2023) and they will have an expiration date of whatever month they were recruited- let's just say September- their **MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY date is September 2024. You will not have to collect any fees from these folks because they paid for an entire year! You will only need to collect fees for your existing scouts and adults.**

The Charter Organization will approve the adults and existing scouts, pay the recharter fee and the unit will collect fees for the existing scouts and adults and then complete the rechartering process as directed.

There are also ways to pay for adults and scouts but that depends on what your units chooses to do. Mope on that soon!!!!

FAQ's

1. Q: Why is proration being eliminated?

A: BSA is an annual program and has incredible value for youth and families. By eliminating proration this allows the BSA to keep the annual membership fee low for all families. The annual membership fee went from \$75 to the new fee of \$80 starting August 1, 2023.

2. Q: We prorate many of our youth in the Fall every year, will that still be a possibility?

A: No, there will not be any prorated fees. All new members and all renewals will be on a 12-month membership renewal.

3. Q: When will the new annual membership fee be implemented?

A: Starting August 1, 2023, any new member or renewing member will pay the new non-prorated registration fee.

4. Q: We want all our members to renew in February each year, can we still do that?

A: No, the membership renewal will be in the month the person joined. In the first few years of this new process, most of the renewals will be in the month you historically rechartered your units in, but over time we expect that will shift to the August – October period as these are the month's most new members join.

5. Q: We have a highly organized charter renewal process in our council, how will this change?

A: All scout units will still charter annually; they will need to meet the leadership and members standards of the BSA. Payment of the unit charter fee and COR approval will still be required. All adult leaders must be approved by the COR and the council. Membership renewal is a separate process and done annually by the individual/unit.

6. Q: How will membership renewal work?

A: All members will be sent an email 60 days out from their anniversary month. Upon joining, the person will be asked to enter their Credit Card information and then in future years the renewal will be an "opt-out" process similar as a subscription or recurring gift. You will be reminded of your membership expiring and you can opt-out, renew your membership or the unit will have the ability to pay for their members.

7. Q: How will the unit leadership know who is due to renew and who has renewed in their unit?

A: Both youth and adult leaders will be included in email notifications to the unit Key-3 monthly as to who is due to renew and who has renewed. In addition, the roster in [Scoutbook](#) and [My.Scouting](#) will indicate the registration status of the member.

8. Q: What happens if someone's email bounces and is undeliverable?

A: Email notifications are sent to the individual, COR, Committee Chair, and the Key Leader (Cubmaster/Scoutmaster/Advisor/Skipper); the unit should be able to identify that an individual is due to renew and can work with the individual to complete their renewal. Units are encouraged to update email contact information in [Scoutbook](#). Should someone miss this process the council can pull a **Non-Renewed Membership Report in [My.Scouting](#)**.

9. Q: Will the Council Registrar be notified when someone's membership has ended due to lack of payment?

A: The council is able to run the **Non-Renewed Membership Report** and see expired youth and adults.

10. Q: How will the "Unit Pays" option work and not double collect fees?

A: The unit will have the option to change the setting in [My.Scouting](#) which will tell the system that member renewals are due, and the unit will pay for it, like many units do today with recharter. The unit would have a Credit Card or ACH pre-set and each month membership fees are due; they would automatically be paid. A "pay at the council office" option will also be available. This will only be for renewals, not new members. The unit will have an "opt-out" option to not renew a member too.

11. Q: After the two months of email notifications, a Scout/Adult does not have their registration paid for by the individual or the unit, will the unit leader and individual get contacted stating that they can no longer participate?

A: There will be a **one-month lapse period and then the Scout/Adults will be dropped.** A notification will go to the individual/parent and the unit indicating that the person is dropped.

12. Q: Will a Scout be covered by insurance if they still show up to meetings after their registration period expired for lack of payment?

A: It is important that all youth be registered in a timely manner. This ensures coverage for both general liability insurance and secondary accident and sickness insurance. All youth participating in BSA programs are covered by insurance. A Scout must register to continue participation in the program.

13. Q: If someone needs financial assistance and the Council can help, is there a mechanism for the Council to pay a portion or all the registration?

A: **As it is today** this process will not change. This would be a local council decision on how they would like to fund Scouts who need financial assistance.

14. Q: A member is a month late with their annual membership renewal...will they need to complete another application to "rejoin"?

A: There is a one-month lapse period. Those who fail to register will need to complete a new application for membership.

15. Q: Are Merit Badge Counselors now required to pay for membership?

A: Yes, Merit Badge Counselors are required to register, take Youth Protection, and pay an annual \$25 fee. Merit badge counselors are not registered in a unit position and therefore are not allowed to attend overnight Scouting activities/events.

16. Q: Does a Merit Badge Counselor qualify as a unit position?

A: No, the Merit Badge Counselor is not a unit position. If a merit badge counselor wants to participate in unit activities and camp overnight activities, they must be registered in a qualified unit position.

17. Q: Can someone register as a Merit Badge Counselor for \$25, and then multiple as an Assistant Scoutmaster for free instead of the \$60?

A: No, an adult must register in a qualified unit position and then they can multiple as a Merit Badge Counselor, the Merit Badge Counselor position is not a unit position and therefore are not allowed to attend overnight Scouting activities/events.