

# Scouting America

## Golden Spread Council

To: Golden Spread Council Family

- Unit and District Key 3's
- Chartered Partners
- Scouting Families

Date: October 8, 2025

Re: 2026 Council Membership Fees

Dear Valued Scout Partners, Volunteers and Parents,

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure quality Scouting programs for young people in the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma. The Golden Spread Council is very blessed to have incredible community support and two amazing camp properties, Camp Don Harrington and Camp M.K. Brown. Over the next several years we will be investing over \$4 million in these assets through key projects to improve bathrooms, shelter, and much more. Camp Don will have more shade structures throughout camp, additional bathrooms, and will host exciting new program areas in Cub World. Camp M.K. Brown will be converting the existing shower house into private bathrooms with showers, adding additional storage, and a classroom center that will also serve as a tornado shelter. This is a very exciting time in the Golden Spread Council as we look to give you the best resources possible to implement Scouting's outdoor program.





New and improved facilities will bring additional costs in upkeep, maintenance, and insurance. Up until now, the Golden Spread Council has been able to avoid the implementation of a local Council Membership Fee. We have done this through many sources of revenue generation. Despite the efforts of countless volunteers and staff who have worked tirelessly to maintain a financially sustainable Council, we have experienced a decrease in annual support, including revenue from outside agencies and Friends of Scouting. Additionally, like all businesses we have experienced a significant increase in overhead costs due to inflation and property insurance.

Currently, 93.5% of local councils nationwide charge a council membership fee. In an effort to best serve the Scouts of the Golden Spread Council, we will begin a local council fee of \$45 per youth and \$10 per adult, to be assessed alongside the National Registration Fee. This fee will be implemented on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2026 and will coincide with your National Registration Fee. This fee will supplement, not replace, the ongoing fundraising efforts of the Golden Spread Council. We encourage all Units to take advantage of Council organized fundraisers like camp cards and popcorn, which will help keep any type of membership fee at a minimum.

Cost will not be a barrier for any young person who wants to join or continue in Scouting. Starting in January, we will offer the option for youth and adult members to pay the registration and membership fee in full, or to split it up in payments over four months with a minimal processing fee. For new Scouts, we will continue to offer registration assistance for families in need. For renewing Scouts, we will continue to provide fundraising opportunities through our camp card and popcorn sales. We will also have registration assistance available for renewing families facing unique circumstances and are in need of financial support.

The Golden Spread Council's true cost per Scout is over \$700 per year, with 87% of all annual expenses invested directly into program costs. The introduction of this fee, along with many other Council efforts, allows the Golden Spread Council to maintain a sustainable funding model for years to come.

Our community needs Scouting now more than ever; we know that your involvement in our program is an acknowledgment of that. Scouting continues to be the best investment you can make in a young person. We look forward to continuing our long-standing tradition of serving our local Chartered Partners in the implementation of their youth program. Again, thank you for all you do to support the Scouting program and the young people in our communities.

			
Dr. Brian Weis Council President	Rebecca Holcomb Council Commissioner	Dr. Ryan Street VP of Membership	Brian Tobler Scout Executive

---

#### FACT SHEET:

- The Golden Spread Council receives \$0 of the \$85 National Registration Fee
- Annual camp maintenance, utilities, equipment rental, and insurance costs have increased by over \$90,000 over the past four years
- Annual direct support from outside agencies has decreased by over \$60,000 annually
- Direct community support through “Friends of Scouting” (FOS) in the Golden Spread Council has decreased from \$500k to \$450K between 2019 and 2024, a 10% decrease.
  - The percentage of Scouting families that participate in FOS has decreased to 2.1%:
    - 2019: 227 Scouting families supported FOS for \$22,315
    - 2024: 37 Scouting families supported FOS for \$4,955
    - Current Year: 21 Scouting families have supported FOS for \$4,314
- Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026:
  - Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, & Sea Scouts:
    - \$130/year: \$85 National Registration Fee + \$45 Council Membership Fee
      - Payment plan of \$35/month for 4 months will be available
  - Explorers
    - \$95/year: \$50 National Registration Fee + \$45 Council Membership Fee
      - Payment plan of \$26.25/month for 4 months will be available
  - Adults:
    - \$75/year: \$65 National Registration Fee + \$10 Council Membership Fee
      - Payment plan of \$20/month for 4 months will be made available
  - Merit Badge Counselors & Camp Staff:
    - \$25/year: \$25 National Registration Fee + \$0 Council Membership Fee
  - Unit Charter Fee
    - \$100/year: \$100 National Registration Fee + \$0 Council Membership Fee

#### FUTURE FACTS:

- The Golden Spread Council will be investing over \$4 million in camping and programming over the next several years. The upgraded shower house at M.K. Brown is scheduled to be completed by summer 2026.
- The Golden Spread Council Staff and Executive Board will remain 100% supportive of the Friends of Scouting campaign to support our Scouts and the Services of the GSC.
- This Council Membership Fee will not eliminate our families’ ability to make a free will/ charitable gift, and we will continue to encourage this participation.
- To assist families in need, the GSC offers 50% commission on camp cards and 30% commission on popcorn. Selling camp cards and popcorn, while a fundraiser to assist families, also teaches valuable life skills, including the value of paying your own way.
- No family will be deprived of the opportunity to be in Scouting due to National or Council fees.
- We will continue to offer free camping at Camp Don Harrington and Camp M.K. Brown to registered members of the Golden Spread Council.
- For more information, please visit: <https://goldenspread.org/membershipfee/>