



May 5, 2020

To: Scouting Parents

From: Clint Scharff, Scout Executive

Re: Council Program Fee

Starting with the 2021 recharter cycle, the Three Fires Council is adopting an annual program fee. The program fee will be \$60/year per youth member and \$24/year for adult volunteers. This will be in addition to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) membership fee.

Here is what this means to you as parents. All district activities like Pinewood Derby, Camporee, Cub-o-ree, Klondike and Winterall will no longer charge a fee for members to attend. Units will also no longer be charged additional fees for camper insurance, weekend tent camping at Camp Big Timber or Camp Freeland Leslie, or for rank advancement from Lion to Eagle and Summit.

Secondly, as you probably know, "Every youth deserves a trained leader." We realize that ongoing training may be a financial burden for some leaders. With that in mind, Council will no longer charge adult volunteers to attend the training they need to deliver safe, quality programs to your Scouts including BALOO, IOLS, Training Academy, and Training Expo.

While Scouting provides an incredible value in both cost and in return, we recognize that any additional cost to the program might negatively impact a family's ability to join the BSA. Therefore, Three Fires Council is revamping its scholarship program to ensure that no family is turned away and that scholarships are awarded based on financial need.

Finally, adding the program fee replaces the annual insurance fee and the Friends of Scouting fundraising program. For those who have been supporters of the Family Friends of Scouting campaign, thank you! Your support is critical this year, and we hope you will continue to make a charitable contribution to enable Scouting to grow. Individuals who want to continue to make a charitable contribution to the Three Fires Council will still be able to do so through a more sophisticated and less intrusive model of Friends of Scouting, which will rely on email, direct mail and invitations to community donor events and not take time away from your Scout's unit program.

The funds collected from the program fee will remain here in the Three Fires Council to develop better programs, facilities, membership outreach and leadership development. A resource page can be found on the Council website www.ThreeFiresCouncil.org with more details.

Thank you for choosing Scouting for your family. We hope to continually improve and deliver better service, better programs and better facilities so that your Scout has the best possible Scouting experience and learns the skills needed to grow and thrive for a brighter, better future.

*Experience
Possibilities*