

June 15, 2022

To: District & Council volunteers
From: Clint Scharff, Scout Executive
Re: Council Fee Changes

Effective August 1, 2022 the Council fees collected with new members and re-charter will change.

- Youth \$75 (\$15 increase)
- Adults and Explorers \$12 (\$12 *decrease*)

A TFC Council fee was first introduced in 2020 to replace the annual *Family-Friends of Scouting* campaign and Insurance fees collected with re-charters. The fee has been unchanged for two years.

A small taskforce of unit level volunteers reviewed the current Council fee structure, BSA membership fees and impact to unit and council operations and made the above recommendation.

The Youth fee now matches the BSA membership fee and the adult fee has been lowered. The rationale is that while families pay the youth fees (collected with dues or fundraisers), adult fees are generally paid out of unit funds - and most volunteers also have youth in Scouting. The overall impact is to lower the cost to volunteers/units.

With the impacts of the pandemic and inflation, this increase was deemed necessary. It is the Council's intent that the fee will remain flat for the next two years.

What District/Council leaders need to know:

- Members/leaders pay only one Council fee based on primary registration. If you are registered in multiple units or outside the unit, the council fee is collected with your primary registration. A Scout registered in a troop and a crew pays only one Council fee.
- District activities such as Camporee, Cub-o-Ree, Klondike, Winterall, and Pinewood Derby continue not to charge members a fee to participate.
- All basic and supplemental training will be available to TFC volunteers at no additional cost (BALOO, IOLS, Training Academy).
- New activities will be added to the calendar in 2023 & 2024 based on District Committee recommendations and council budget committee approval.
- All cloth-rank advancement will be provided to all TFC members at no charge (Lion-Eagle & Summit).
- All volunteer recognition - knots, certificates and awards - will also be provided through these funds.
- Camp Big Timber: no charge for units to tent camp on weekends.
- These fees will stay local to support local programs and camps and improve service to units and grow membership.
- A micro-site will be maintained from the Council website homepage with resources to help leaders and parents better understand this change. www.threefirescouncil.org
- Please help units with their program and budget planning, keeping the council fee in mind. Units should consider adjusting "unit dues" in light of what is now included in the Council fee.

- As Scouters, we believe and know that the value and still relatively inexpensive cost of Scouting is a great deal compared to other youth activities that do not offer the leadership and life skills that come from quality Scouting; however, many families may need help seeing that. A member of Scouts BSA in his/her first year can expect to pay \$800 for uniform, fees, campouts and summer camp. A Cub scout can pay \$600 for uniform, fees, activities and Summer day-camp. Through unit fundraising like Popcorn, most can earn their own way for the entire year.

As District and Council leaders, you play an important role. We hope that this will have a positive impact on member and volunteer retention and growth while simultaneously improving the Three Fires Council's sustainable business model.

Sincerely,

Clint Scharff, Scout Executive