

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

By Three Fires Council Commissioner Brian Caputo

“Rechartering” is a thing of the past. Under the old rechartering system, units and their members renewed their membership in Scouting America at the same time through a largely manual process. However, in 2024, the process changed dramatically. Unit and individual membership renewals are now accomplished through two separate automated processes.

Individual membership, for both Scouts and adult leaders, can be renewed up to 60 days before the end of the 12-month period after initial registration in Scouting or the last renewal. For example, if a youth joins Scouting on August 1, 2025, his/her membership year runs through July 31, 2026. The youth’s parent (or guardian) can renew the Scout’s membership on or after June 1, 2026, through *the parent’s* My.Scouting account. The process for adult leader membership renewal is the same.

The National Office will send the first email notice of a Scout’s need to renew to the parent’s email address (i.e., the email address on record in My.Scouting) 60 days prior to the membership expiration date. Adult leaders will receive similar notices concerning their need to renew 60 days in advance of their membership expiration. Several email and text reminders will follow.

Unit Key 3 members receive periodic email notices of impending youth and adult leader membership expirations (also known as “membership expiration notices”) from the National Office. It is imperative that the unit Key 3 (or their designee) use these notices to encourage Scouts/their parents and adult leaders to renew their membership as soon as they are eligible (i.e., as early as 60 days prior to the membership expiration date). If a Scout or adult leader renews her/his membership early, no membership months are lost. The membership year remains the same. For example, a Scout with a membership year that runs from August 1 to July 31 will retain the same membership year even if the Scout’s parent renews his/her membership on the prior June 1.

Units should appoint one of their adult leaders as a Unit Membership Coordinator to oversee the individual membership process. The Unit Membership Coordinator can receive membership expiration notices when a unit Key 3 member names the individual as a Key 3 delegate through My.Scouting. The critical duties of the Unit Membership Coordinator then become:

1. Use the membership expiration notices to remind parents to renew the membership of their youth and to remind adult leaders to renew their own membership.
2. Occasionally compare unit rosters available through My.Scouting with youth and adult leaders who are attending unit meetings and activities. If the rosters do not include all youth and adults who are participating in Scouting with the unit, corrective action should be taken promptly.

If any unit Key 3 members or delegates (e.g., Unit Membership Coordinator) are not receiving membership expiration notices, they should contact Council Registrar Kelly Quinn at kelly.quinn@scouting.org for assistance.

Any youth or adults participating in Scouting without being members are not covered by Scouting America's health and accident insurance.

If you have questions about individual membership renewal, please contact your district's Vice Chair for Membership, Unit Commissioner, or District Commissioner.

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