



Registration Fee Increase

We have been informed that the National Executive Board unanimously passed a resolution at its May 2009 meeting to increase the traditional membership annual registration fee for youth and adults from \$10 to \$15 effective January 1, 2010.

This will impact all of the membership in the Blue Mountain Council in units with charters that expire on December 31, 2009 and beyond.

The annual Exploring fee will remain \$10.

The last registration fee increase was implemented seven years ago.

A great deal of thought and consideration went into this decision by both the Executive Board and the Membership Fee Task Force led by National Commissioner Tico Perez. Consideration was given to the impact to program and council support, the necessary funding required to implement planned initiatives over the next several years, and the overall fees paid by councils. Input was sought and received from staff and volunteers at the council level. It was then determined that the best approach was to increase the fee to the level chosen and to make every effort to hold that level for the next several years, rather than raising the fee every year.

These fees are the primary source of funding for the National Council, which is committed to providing added benefits to local councils and volunteers to support the delivery of high-quality Scouting programs. While none of these fees remain in the council, the National Council returns our investment by providing many support tools to units and the council that make Scouting possible here locally. Examples are Web-based resources such as MyScouting, the Scouting Community social network, Scouting.org, on-line training (with much more to come), tour permits, rechartering, and advancement. They also support us through criminal background checks, insurance, national High Adventure and Jamborees, meeting plans, program development, helps, and resources, training materials and events, and much, much, more! For example, did you know that the National Council subsidizes the cost of the handbooks so that they are more affordable than what they would otherwise be, and less than other books of similar size and design?

The National Council strives to minimize operating costs, and it is worth noting that, even with this increase, youth can receive the full benefits of Scouting membership for only \$1.25 per month, so it remains a great value.



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