



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

SUWANNEE RIVER AREA COUNCIL

Council Program Fee Frequently Asked Questions

The main responsibility and mission of the Council leadership is to ensure a sound operation, first class camping facilities, and administrative support/services that strengthens our units and fosters a quality Scouting experience for our youth, volunteers and units. These objectives are accomplished through prudent fiscal stewardship.

Recognizing trends, our Executive Board instituted a Program Fee to be collected, in addition to the National BSA registration fee, as part of the annual membership renewal to help offset the cost of providing these services in our thirteen county service area in NW Florida and SW Georgia.

We are a grateful for the generous support we receive from you in our efforts to deliver the promise of Scouting to the communities we serve. The Suwannee River Area Council is committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting.

Beginning on August 1, 2020, the program fee structure that the Executive Board approved, shown alongside the new National BSA registration fee is as follows:

Annual Registration – Youth

- \$66.00 – National BSA registration
- \$54.00 – SRAC Program fee
- **Total – \$120.00/\$10.00 per month**
- \$12.00 – optional Boys' Life magazine
- w/ mag – \$132.00/\$11.00 per month

Annual Registration – Adults and Exploring

- \$42.00 – National BSA registration
- \$18.00 – SRAC Program fee
- **Total – \$60.00/\$5.00 per month**
- \$12.00 – optional Boys' Life magazine
- w/ mag – \$72.00/\$6.00 per month

The following provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions about the Council Program Fee:

1. What is the purpose of the Council's Program Fee and when did it take effect?

This new fee is being implemented out of necessity to ensure the needed support for Wallwood Scout Reservation, boost unit level support, and focus on quality programs, while being able to provide the required insurance coverage in order to be able to continue to provide a robust Scouting program.

2. Are other Councils charging a Program fee or charging less?

Yes, however every council is unique and sets its own budget. We believe that the



inclusion of insurance, University of Scouting, tent camping at Wallwood and increased staff support for membership, program and leadership development make the Council Program fee an excellent value that meets the needs of our local scouting family and council.

3. How will the money be spent?

Council Program fees will remain local and be used by the council to support local programs, camps, scholarships, volunteer training, insurance and unit service.

4. I have a scout in multiple units within the council, will I have to pay the Program Fee for each unit my scout participates within?

No. The Program Fee is paid only each year per scout, regardless of the number of units a scout is registered in.

5. Is there a family discount rate?

Currently, neither the BSA nor the Suwannee River Area Council has a family membership option.

6. If this Program Fee presents a hardship for some of my unit's families is there any support to help them out?

Yes. The Executive Board does not intend to have the Program Fee become an undue financial hardship on any specific family. The Program Fee can be reduced or possibly waived for families based on an application for assistance due to financial hardship. Copies of this application are available through the Council Service Center. Additionally, we will include the form in each Unit's charter renewal package; each Unit Leader will be responsible for collecting and submitting applications from families at the time of charter renewal.

7. When/how will fees be collected?

The new fees will be collected for new registrations beginning on August 1, 2020. Currently registered members will be subject to the new fees at recharter time, as usual. The Council program fee will be pro-rated on a monthly basis just as the BSA membership fee is prorated for members joining during the calendar year. Families will pay a pro-rated fee through their unit at the time of enrollment either online or by cash/check. Units will not have to collect national or council fees, as long as, the new youth or adult registers online. The online system will be updated to reflect the Council Program fee.

8. We renewed our charter with several Arrow of Light members who bridged over into a neighboring Troop, is our Pack or the Troop they joined responsible for the Program Fee?

No. If the scout is currently registered with a unit in the council, then as with the membership fee, there is no additional charge when moving from one unit to another. Whether it be from Pack to Pack, Troop to Crew or Pack to Troop etc.



9. Is this Program Fee in addition to the increases recently announced by the National Organization of the Boy Scouts of America?

Yes. Our Council Program Fee was adopted by our local Council Executive Board. National's decision to increase its registration fees from \$60 to \$66 dollars because of increasing costs to operate the National organization is separate from our need to collect the Program Fee.