

To our Scouting volunteers and families,

For more than 100 years, Scouting has helped build future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun and adventure in the outdoors. At Boy Scouts of America, we are dedicated to developing leaders of character by preparing young men and women for life by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The timeless ideals of the Scout Law, such as being trustworthy, helpful, kind and brave, make up the foundation young people need to address and overcome challenges in their lives and the issues facing their generation.

Here in the Piedmont Council, Scouting annually serves more than 10,000 youth and volunteers in 11 counties. Now, as we continue the Scouting mission, it is important that we keep pace with an ever-changing world. While costs to the organization have increased every year, the Boy Scouts of America has worked to keep the annual membership fee as low as possible by subsidizing core costs, including liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities. Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to subsidize at the level we have in the past, especially as the cost of insurance has increased dramatically. We kept the cost low to make Scouting available to as many young people as possible but keeping the cost artificially low for many years now magnifies the impact of changes.

To ensure we have the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting despite increasing operating costs, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has made the difficult but necessary decision to increase the annual membership fee effective January 1, 2020.

Fee Type	Current Fee	Fee effective January 1, 2020	Paid to:
Youth registration in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts*	\$33.00	\$60.00	National BSA
Local Council Insurance**	\$7.00	\$5.00	Piedmont Council
Total fees for youth	\$40.00	\$65.00	
Adult leader registration (all programs)	\$33.00	\$36.00	National BSA
Local Council Insurance**	\$7.00	\$5.00	Piedmont Council
Total fees for adult leaders	\$40.00	\$41.00	
Unit charter fee	\$40.00	\$60.00	National BSA

**Note: although Venturers and Sea Scouts ages 18-20 fill out an adult membership application, they will pay the youth registration fee.*

Every dollar of the national membership fee will go toward the cost of essential services, including liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, program resources, safety standards, youth protection and personal safety training, and services to councils nationwide to sustain Scouting.

The National organization will also continue to develop and improve resources that support our volunteers and youth members such as online registration, Member Care and Scoutbook, which now

includes the Den Leader experience to ensure the safe and consistent delivery of Cub Scouting; as well as improvements aimed at simplifying the annual renewal process.

*****In the Piedmont Council, the additional \$7 fee charged for local insurance fees (including but not limited to property and casualty insurance, and unit sickness and accident insurance) will be reduced to \$5 to help offset the increased national fee. This fee currently generates only 45% of the actual insurance cost to the council.***

Across the country and in our own community, we know that Scouting remains one of the most valuable investments we can make to support young men and women today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow. From once-in-a-lifetime adventures to merit badges that spark interests and future careers; from campouts under the stars to service projects that leave a lasting impact on our communities; Scouting's year-round program expands horizons and provides young people with a safe and welcoming place to learn, grow, and thrive.

That is why we are committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. In addition to a new council and unit membership assistance fund, National BSA has established a *Growing Future Leaders Fund*, which is funded entirely through donations, to provide additional financial support to those who need it.

We are currently working on a plan to help pay the difference between the current national membership fee and the expected increased amount for any Scout or adult volunteer not able to pay and whose unit or chartering organization is not able to help. ***We do not want to lose a single Scout or leader because of the expected fee increase.***

We will provide details of our plan for financial assistance as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued role in empowering a generation of future leaders of character through Scouting programs.

Connie Bowes

Connie Bowes, Scout Executive
Piedmont Council Inc.

PS: With more than a month remaining in the annual popcorn sales campaign, ***it is not too late*** for Scouts in units currently selling popcorn to use their Take Order forms to sell more popcorn and increase their commissions.

Even if your Scout is in a unit that is not currently selling popcorn, it is not too late to start selling to offset the increased membership fees. Take order forms are available in the Council Service Center. Give us a call and our staff will deliver forms to your unit. You only order what your Scouts sell so your unit should not have any leftover product.

The chart below shows how many containers a Scout would need to sell to earn enough commissions to cover his/her new registration fee:

(Example: Sell 12 boxes of 18-pack microwave unbelievable butter and earn \$72 in commissions.)

Products	Retail	Base Commission	Sell to Pay Current Fee	Sell To Pay New Fee	Additional To Sell
Chocolate Lovers Collection	\$60	\$18.00	2	4	2
Cheese Lovers Collection	\$30	\$9.00	4	8	4
Chocolatey Caramel Cruch	\$25	\$7.50	5	9	4
Salted Caramel Popcorn	\$25	\$7.50	5	9	4
18-pack MWV Kettle Corn	\$25	\$7.50	5	9	4
18-pack MWV Unbelievable Butter	\$20	\$6.00	7	12	5
Honey Roasted Peanuts	\$20	\$6.00	7	12	5
White Cheddar Cheese Corn	\$20	\$6.00	7	12	5
Premium Caramel Corn	\$20	\$6.00	7	12	5
Salted Virginia Peanuts	\$15	\$4.50	9	15	6
Classic Caramel Corn	\$10	\$3.00	13	23	10