

# From the Scout Executive | December 2023

Back in October, my Scout Executive article discussed the national trend by local Councils to impose up to a \$85 Council fee on top of the annual registration fee imposed by National BSA. Our goal as a Council is to not have to go this route, but rather through the restructuring of the Annual Appeal campaign and support of our units, increase the percentage of families making a voluntary contribution to the Council.

Your unit will receive more information about the Annual Appeal plan in the new year, however, I must say that the initial responses I've received have been favorable. With the support of our units and families through the Annual Appeal, we can continue to be a leading council in the nation and offer a high-quality Scouting program that remains affordable for families in our service area.



Additionally, I want to challenge ALL our Scouts to participate in our upcoming Scouting for Food drive, held throughout the month of March. The Scouting for Food drive is the largest coordinated Good Turn and one of the largest food drives in the Greater Baltimore Area. Food insecurity skyrocketed during the pandemic, causing 1 out of every 3 children in the Baltimore Area to go hungry; the need is real and Scouting for Food is an easy program for your unit to give back to your community while showcasing the values of Scouting.

Units decide their own dates in March to drop off door hangers (provided at no cost by the Council to participating Units) and to pick up the food donations. Your unit also determines the organization to receive the food collected. Every Scout that participates in the Scouting for Food drive will receive at no cost a special Scouting for Food patch. Let's make 2024 the year that all 400 Packs, Troops, Crews, Ships and Posts participate in the Scouting for Food drive! To register your unit for the Scouting for Food drive go to: [www.BaltimoreBSA.org/SFF](http://www.BaltimoreBSA.org/SFF).



During this holiday time of family gatherings and reflection on the past year, I'd like to say "thank you" to the more than 5,000 registered Scout leaders in the Baltimore Area Council that bring the Scouting program to the youth in Central Maryland each week. The Baltimore Area Council has a bright future in 2024 as we continue our work of serving more youth, providing great programs, and the continued development of Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation.

As always, if you have any questions or comments let me know.

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