

Pathway to Adventure Council Subsidy FAQs

Why did the Pathway to Adventure Council Executive Board vote to provide the subsidy?

Council leadership and the Executive Board understands and appreciates the challenges, timing, and significance this fee increase presents to our valued units and families. Since this is a national registration fee as opposed to a local council (Pathway to Adventure Council) fee, the board does not have the authority to waive or postpone the fee to give families time to react and prepare for the increase. Therefore, the board decided to commit significant financial resources to absorb this increase, for this charter renewal period only, and thus provide time for our families to prepare.

What are the charter renewal fees for 2020 that my unit will be required to pay?

Youth: Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scout and Exploring Youth - \$33.00 (national registration fee) + \$12.00 (PTAC insurance fee) = \$45.00

Adults: Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scout Adults - \$36.00 (national registration fee) + \$12.00 (PTAC insurance fee) = \$48.00

National BSA Annual Unit Liability Insurance Fee = \$60.00 (Traditionally paid for by Charter Organization)

What other options did the council consider?

Council leadership and the Executive Board analyzed several different options to provide relief to our Scouting families. However, no other option completely eliminated the issue of the short notice and having to ask unit leaders to go back to parents this year and collect more money than they had planned. The alternative options also presented substantial administrative issues for our unit leadership.

Where is the money to subsidize the membership fee increase coming from?

The money to cover the national membership fee increase subsidy is coming from the council's endowment fund. Through smart investment practices, dedicated focus in estate gifts and James E. West endowment gifts, the endowment fund has grown to allow us to provide this one-time subsidy.

Are you going to have to increase camp or activity fees this year to replenish the endowment?

No. There will be regularly planned inflationary increases in summer camp fees, but these are our normal course of business and not at all driven by this action. The funds committed by the Executive Board are being allocated from our endowment. However, this is a significant financial expenditure and it is our hope that our Scouting families and units will respond to this action by contributing to the Friends of Scouting campaign this year and, in the future, participating in the fall popcorn sale and a new spring product sale, and attending a Pathway to Adventure Council summer camp moving forward.

How can my Scouts help raise funds to cover costs?

The Pathway to Adventure Council is proud to offer two organized unit funding opportunities. Units can participate in a new spring product sale (to be announced in January) or the fall popcorn sale. Both unit funding programs offer Scouts the opportunity to earn commission on all products sold. Units should consider covering the cost of registration fees using their annual budget, which is funded by product sales.

What happens if the membership fee or the unit charter fee goes up again in 2021?

Unfortunately, PTAC does not know if there will be a fee increase in 2021. Therefore, as a condition of the 2020 registration fee subsidy, we ask that all units to participate in an Ideal Year of Scouting presentation. Through an Ideal year of Scouting presentation and workshop, we will work with each unit to plan a solid program and a supportive budget. There is a one-time subsidy we are providing to Pathway to Adventure Council families. The national fees in 2021 will be the responsibility of the units and families.

Why is the council adding stipulations on receiving the money?

A Scout is Prepared. We want to make sure our units have the tools to be successful. We have ideas to share that can make scouting more affordable for families moving forward. We feel these small additions will help delivery quality Scouting programs across the council.

What if my unit has enough money now or just needs more time to cover the increase? Is there an “opt-out” option?

Obviously, we feel that this plan will help scouting families ease into the fee increase. However, if your unit chooses not to participate, that is completely up to your unit. Should your unit choose not to participate, registration fee assistance from council will not be provided.

How does the subsidy impact online chartering? Can I still pay online?

DO NOT PAY ONLINE. Since the online registration system is a national system, it will be built with the national fees. A [fee worksheet](#) will be provided to your unit and is available online. Please bring your worksheet and unit check into a service center. Some district may also schedule turn-in nights.

What if I have a new Scout turn in an application in 2019, but I don't turn it in until 2020?

It is important to turn in all paperwork as soon as possible. Any applications that are received by the council office after December 31, 2019 will be charged the full national registration fee for 2020. New members joining after January 1, 2020 will pay the full (un-subsidized) national registration fee.

The National Council FAQ references a "local council program fee." What is that?

Some councils have implemented a fee to youth and adult members above the national registration fee to help offset local council operating expenses. This fee is known as a "local council program fee." Due to the generosity of Scouters, corporate gifts, fundraising events, popcorn, the Pathway to Adventure Council does not charge its members a local council program fee. The council does charge a \$12.00 fee to all members to assist with the cost of providing accident and sickness insurance.