Scouting America
Marin Council

To: Marin Council Scouting Families

Date: January 6, 2026

Re: Supporting Families & Camp Fees

We understand that rising costs are putting a pinch on families and those financial pressures may influence your decisions regarding activities for your children. We wish we could turn back time and lower prices, but as an organization we also face mounting costs when it comes to utilities, insurance, supplies, and food as well as salaries for seasonal employees which are indexed to increases in California minimum wage.

While we have always made camperships available to support our Scouts, those have been directed towards lower-income families. Middle-class families don't typically qualify for camperships and some shy away from even applying for assistance.

So, to support our Marin Council Scouting families, and of course encourage more Scouts going to camp, we will be introducing new practices and simplifying others which we believe will be beneficial economically to many…and hopefully remove an obstacle for a Scout going to camp.

Installment Payment Programs for Week-long Camps:
If your Scout is attending Day Camp, Marin Sierra Summer Camp, or NLYT you can elect to pay camp fees over a three-month period. Even with the rising cost of summer camps, this will keep your monthly payment at or below $250 and allow you to spread the cost of camp more evenly into your family budget. You won't be eligible for the early-bird discount, but you won't be subject to late sign-up fees.

Each camp program will have a payment agreement form available with event-specific deadlines. For activities where payments are traditionally made on a unit basis like Camp Marin Sierra, a tracking system will be implemented so that payment status for individual families will be communicated to Troop Coordinators so everyone can keep track of who is going to camp.

Sibling Discount Process will be Simplified:
For many years, we have offered a 10% sibling discount for week-long camping programs. That discount needed to be applied for using our standard campership form, although the discount was not tied to income or economic need. We realize that process may have been confusing.

In 2026 the Sibling Discount application process will be simplified. There is now a concise, standalone form that will allow families to quickly apply for a 10% discount on week-long camp fees if they have more than one child attending a Marin Council camp. The discount does need to be requested, but it will be granted automatically. Programs can be mixed and matched with the 10% discount applying to Day Camp Fees as well as Camp Marin Sierra or NYLT fees if a family has children in both a Pack and a Troop. If a family was taking advantage of an

installment payment plan, the Sibling Discount would be applied to the final payment. While sibling discount and camperships cannot be combined, household size is a consideration for those who apply for camperships.

Camperships Will Continue to be Available:
We will continue to offer camperships to Marin Council families. These are indexed using HUD median family income levels in Marin County. A campership application needs to be submitted, and parents will need to report previous year AGI. Camperships generally range from 25% to 35%; in extreme cases camperships might cover up to 50% of camp fees but will not exceed 50%.

Going Forward:
Updated forms related to these improvements are being linked throughout the council website as well as being shared with unit leaders. We trust these efforts will be helpful to our Scouting families. Most importantly, we hope these changes will remove some obstacles preventing Scouts from attending camp. A week at camp can be the pinnacle of the Scouting program supporting retention, advancement, and leadership skills. What our Scouts gain from camp - the skills they learn, the sense of responsibility they develop, the friendships they form - cannot be replicated elsewhere which is why we believe every Scout should take full advantage of our great camping programs and we will do what we can to support that.

Enclosures:
Installment Payment Commitments – Day Camp, NYLT, Marin Sierra Resident Camp
Sibling Discount Request “Short form”
Campership Request

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