



TO: All Unit Leaders and Commissioner Staff

FROM: Council Key 3 Leadership

RE: Membership registration fees and new requirements

Within the past month, the Boy Scouts of America has made two membership related announcements we would like to share with you. These important announcements from the BSA relate to membership fee changes and new youth protection training requirements.

Membership Registration Fee Changes

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

To do this — while delivering the nation's foremost youth development program — the BSA must remain vigilant in controlling costs. Although the BSA has been successful in reducing expenditures in many areas, it became necessary to evaluate national membership fees.

After extensive study and feedback, the volunteer National Executive Board of the BSA approved a membership fee increase from \$24 to \$33 for all registered youth and adult leaders, effective **December 1, 2017**.

In addition, local councils were given an option to supplement the national membership fee. Since 2014, the Blue Ridge Council has collected an additional \$1 per youth and adult at recharter time to help offset the cost of council-provided accident and sickness insurance for all registered members. The Council cost for accident and sickness insurance exceeds \$5,000 a year.

The BSA also provides liability insurance coverage, paid for by the Blue Ridge Council, for adult leaders and chartered organizations. Over the past several years, the liability insurance cost for the Blue Ridge Council has increased dramatically. The BSA liability insurance fee has risen from \$1.25 per member to \$3.75 per member and now totals more than \$30,000 annually. This fee is determined by the BSA and is based upon a council's total average membership and a factored experience rate. This liability insurance fee is in addition to the \$40 annual charter fee that a chartered organization pays annually to renew their charter.





The Council Key 3 and volunteer Executive Board members had lengthy discussions on whether to adjust the amount collected by the Blue Ridge Council to help offset these increased liability insurance costs, in addition to continuing to collect for the accident and sickness insurance.

After thoughtful consideration, the Council Executive Committee of the Board voted unanimously to increase the local fee to \$5.00 per youth and adult member. **This would bring the total registration fee for each member to \$38.00 effective December 1, 2017.**

The \$5.00 fee will directly offset the costs of Blue Ridge Council-provided accident and sickness and liability insurances and will be collected annually as a part of the Recharter (re-registration) process.

BSA Statement on Youth Protection Training requirement:

Effective **September 1, 2017**, Youth Protection Training (YPT) will be required for all adult leaders at the time of registration. Paper applications from new leaders must be accompanied by a Youth Protection Training completion certificate, which must be filed with the application. This decision was approved by the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and fully supported by the Blue Ridge Council.

Because completion of YPT is now required for all leaders at the time of registration, unit leaders must obtain copies of the completion certificates from the leaders who register online before approving their application.

With the upcoming renewal cycle, the Internet Rechartering system will be updated so that units cannot submit the registration renewal of any adult who does not have current YPT as of the effective date of the renewal.

Effective for the 2018 summer camp season, any adult accompanying a Boy Scout troop to a residence camp or other Scouting activity lasting 72 hours or more **must** be registered as a leader, including completion of a Criminal Background Check and YPT, even if they are the parent of a youth on the trip.

Please Note: Although YPT is strongly encouraged for adults attending any overnight activity, at this time, the requirement applies only to individual adults staying three or more nights at a resident camp. The Blue Ridge Council has made Youth Protection Training a priority emphasis for a number of years and fully supports this national requirement.

