



To: Greater Niagara Frontier Council Leaders
From: Russell Etzenhouser, Scout Executive/CEO

I learned late last week that BSA is increasing the membership fee. Below I have included the memo from Wayne Brock explaining the fee change. The increase goes into effect on January 1, 2014 and will affect our rechartering units this year. 100% of this fee goes to fund the national organization. We will continue to maintain a \$2.00 insurance fee to offset the cost of supplemental accident and sickness insurance.

I regret that we did not have this information sooner as I know that most all of our units have already planned their budgets for this year.

Date: August 30, 2013
To: Scout Executives
From: Wayne Brock, Chief Scout Executive
Subject: Membership Fees

Over the last few days, professional Scouters from across the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., for our annual Top Hands meeting. Whether or not you were able to join us, I want to share with you upcoming changes regarding membership fees that were announced during Top Hands.

First, I want to make clear that the Boy Scouts of America maintains a strong financial position. In order to continue to deliver the nation's foremost youth program, it is occasionally necessary to increase membership fees so that we can offset rising administrative costs. For this reason, the Boy Scouts of America is increasing its membership fee from \$15 to \$24 per year for all registered Scouts and adults effective January 1, 2014. For those who join after the beginning of the year, the fee will be prorated at \$2 per month. This does include units with a December 31, 2013, expiration date.

The Boy Scouts of America last increased fees in 2010. Since that time, we have taken additional steps to control and reduce costs, but administrative costs have continued to rise faster than projected. The National Executive Committee began discussions about increasing membership fees in 2012. During our May meeting, the executive board appointed a committee comprised of board members, Scout executives, and regional volunteers to examine this topic further and make a recommendation. This week, the executive committee approved the recommendation to increase membership fees. It is important to note that this process began well before the decision was made to change the membership standards policy for youth.

As always, our focus is to build the future leaders of this country by combining adventure, educational activities, and lifelong values. The fee increase is a step we must take in order to continue providing the services you and our members expect and need. With your help and that of each of our volunteers and Scouting parents, we will continue accomplishing incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.

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