



Western Shore District September 2017 Newsletter

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2017 Membership Fees Increase

by National BSA

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 we have been successful in reducing our expenditures in many areas, it has become necessary to evaluate our annual membership fees.

Based on feedback from both volunteers and employees, the BSA membership fee will increase to \$33 for all registered youth and adult leaders, effective **December 1, 2017**.

Membership fees support the services that are necessary to provide Scouting to youth from 7 to 21 years of age. From education to

high-adventure experiences you can't get anyplace else, the BSA provides unique growth opportunities at a great value.

Services include primary liability coverage for all volunteer leaders and chartered organizations, ongoing advances in technology, fundraising support, new program development and membership recruiting strategies, and support materials. In 2016 alone, the BSA served 2.3 million youth members through approximately 270 local councils across the United States and its territories.

With the help of all of our volunteers and Scouting parents, we will continue accomplishing incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.

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Commissioner Corner

Fall is a great time for scouts. The fall is where our packs have their big recruiting times thus bringing in excited scouts. Their enthusiasm can be contagious. Don't be afraid to catch their enthusiasm. For me, it leads to that moment to reflect on when my boys were young, enthusiastic and trust me, it was contagious. I hope all our leaders, commissioner staff and district folks are able to catch their enthusiasm.

This is the beginning of a very busy time for your Unit Commissioner (UC) to support and be an advocate for the units that they cover. So, what is going on?

First, your commissioner is there to support in recruiting efforts. Whether

it is attending a Join Scouting Night, answering general questions or collecting applications, they are there to support the unit. Your UC should be a resource you can turn to if you need a question answered or advice, especially as we add new scouts and leaders through the recruiting efforts.

Secondly, it is the beginning of Recharter season. Your unit Key 3 should have received an email with the passcodes for your units online recharter. The Commissioner staff is here to help and assist in any way we can to make this a smooth event.

What we would ask of every unit to do this month is the review your roster to make sure your version matches council's version of the roster. Also, please look over your YPT. Now is the time to get anyone expiring between now and February to renew their YPT.



For more information on Recharter, please attend Roundtable on September 13th.

Yours in Scouting,
John Howlin
District Commissioner, Western Shore
443-532-6411

2017 Membership Fees Increase Cont.

by National BSA

1. Why are you increasing the membership fee? What is the additional money from the fees going to be used for?

To deliver the Scouting program to our 2.3 million youth members, it is occasionally necessary for the organization to increase membership fees to offset rising costs. As a result, the BSA is increasing our membership fee to \$33 for all registered Scouts and adult members effective December 1, 2017.

Membership fees support the services that are necessary to provide Scouting programs to a growing number of youth. Services include ongoing advances in technology, council visits to assist in fundraising, program development and membership campaigns, liability insurance costs, and administrative costs. It is important that we continue to maintain a strong financial position in the future to support and grow Scouting.

2. What is directly contributing to the need for this increase?

There are a variety of factors taken into consideration, all of which have led to an increased cost of doing business.

3. When will the increase go into effect?

The membership fee change for all registered youth and adult leaders will go into effect December 1, 2017. This change will affect Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Venturing crews, Sea Scout ships, and Exploring posts/clubs. However, it will NOT apply to LDS-sponsored units, nor to those units with council-paid memberships. Note: All November and December 2017 recharterers will have to renew at this new rate (since November recharter renewal actually spans from December 1, 2017, to November 30, 2018).

4. Does the BSA increase membership fees often?

There have been 10 fee increases in the organization's history. Since 1969, the BSA has increased our fee, on average, every five years. The last membership increase took effect on January 1, 2014, and, prior to that, in 2010.

5. How much does it cost to be a Boy Scout?

All youth and adults who wish to become a member or leader of the Boy Scouts of America must pay the annual membership fee. Beyond that, families incur additional costs related to uniforms and the activities of their individual units.

6. Will the fee for Cub Scouts, Exploring, and Venturing/Sea Scouts increase as well?

Yes. This change will affect Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Venturing crews, Sea Scout ships, and Exploring posts/clubs. However, it will NOT apply to LDS-sponsored units, nor to those units with council-paid memberships.

7. Who gets the membership fee?

Local councils collect — and forward to the National Council — membership fees from each youth and adult who wishes to become a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

8. How is the National Council funded?

The National Council is funded through membership and service fees, investments, *Boys' Life* magazine subscriptions, sales of uniforms and equipment, fees from national high-adventure bases, and contributions from individuals.

9. What does the National Council do for Scouting on the local level?

The BSA's National Council provides program materials and support for approximately 270 local councils that administer the Scouting program, with each covering a specific geographic territory. The following are the key functions of the National Council:

- Provide training to local council volunteers and staff
- Maintain a national training center at Philmont Scout Ranch
- Develop and maintain four year-round national high-adventure bases and execute national events (jamborees, National Eagle Scout Association and Order of the Arrow conferences, and National Council meetings)
- Continue our leadership role in protecting our youth by providing youth protection resources, training, and criminal background checks for all registered volunteers and staff
- Provide local councils with program as well as tools for camp and office planning and evaluation, extensive financial counseling, planned giving and fundraising information, and professional personnel support
- Coordinate a communications network through magazines and literature (handbooks, merit badge pamphlets, brochures, training materials, and professional development training), including providing *Scouting* magazine to all registered leaders
- Make available uniforms, equipment, and program supplies
- Maintain and develop new relationships with chartered organizations that use the Scouting program (religious institutions, civic organizations, labor unions, professional organizations, business, and industry)
- Serve in a leadership role with Scouting associations in other countries as a member of the World Scout Conference
- Set and maintain program standards (e.g., advancement, health and safety, etc.) to ensure consistency of the brand throughout councils across the country
-

10. With the increase in membership fees, is Scouting still a good value?

The BSA has always taken into consideration the cost of delivering the Scouting program and has worked to keep our fees reasonable.

When you compare the BSA to other youth-serving organizations, we provide unique growth opportunities at a great value. The following are costs associated with other youth activities:

- Tackle football, \$142: In Plano, Texas, second- through sixth-graders who play tackle football pay \$140 for a three-month season. That fee doesn't include equipment.
- Youth orchestra, \$1,000: Members of the prestigious Los Angeles Youth Orchestra pay \$100 to audition, \$1,000 annually (if accepted), and must buy their own instruments.
- Select soccer, \$400: In Cleveland, select youth soccer players ages 15 to 18 pay \$400 a season, plus \$180 for uniforms.
- Youth basketball, \$525: In Queens, N.Y., boys ages 8 to 13 pay \$525 a year, not including uniforms.
- 4-H program, \$25: Participants of the 4-H program in College Station, Texas, pay \$25 a year, not including fees for individual activities.

From education to high-adventure, the Boy Scouts of America provides unique growth opportunities at a great value and we want all eligible youth to receive these benefits and participate in Scouting.

TRAINING



Every Scout Deserves Trained Adult Leaders!

WSD will not be offering IOLS this fall so I will be advising you of IOLS courses in other districts as I learn of them. Those I know of now are listed below with the first of these coming up soon at Camp Snyder. Note that IOLS is one of two required courses to be considered "Trained" as a scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster. The other is Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Position Specific Training.

Districts offering IOLS include:

~Sully District, (Centerville and Camp Snyder) September 12 and September 15-17, <https://scoutingevent.com/082-14808>

~Chain Bridge District, (Arlington, VA and Middleburg, VA) September 14 and September 22-23.
Details at https://scoutingevent.com/082-CBD_IOLS_2017.

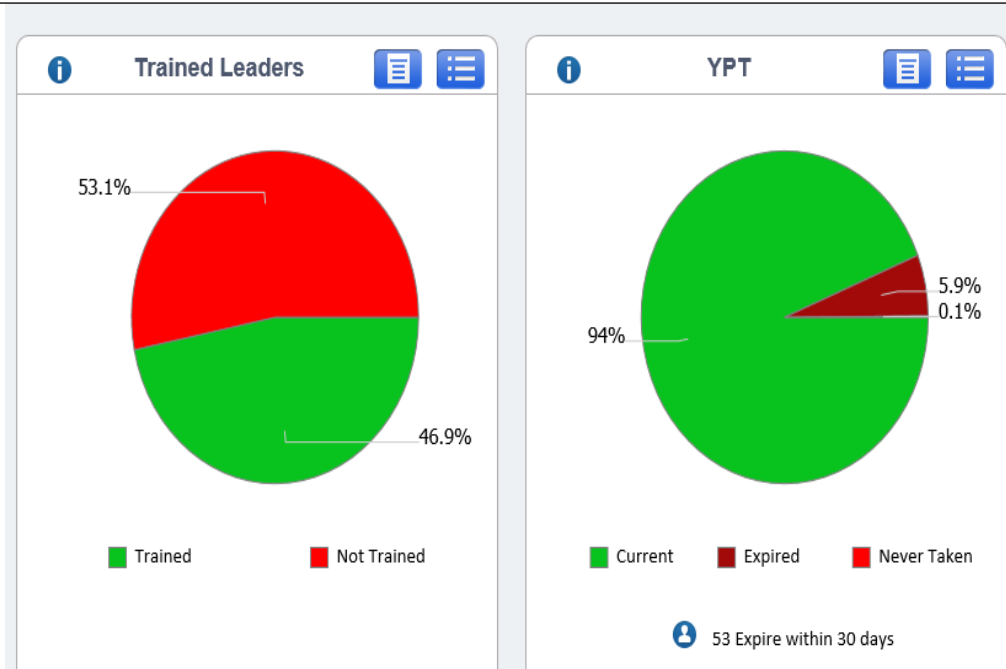
~Colonial District (Alexandria, VA) September 27, <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSAo82&calendarID=99841>
and September 29-30 (Lorton, VA) <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSAo82&calendarID=99842> Must register for both.

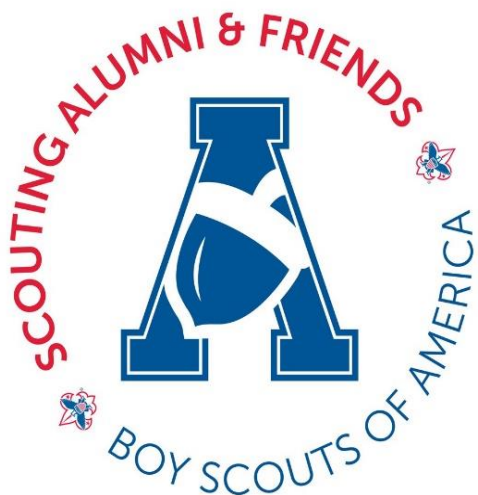
~Seneca District Oct 28-29 (Purcellville, VA) <https://scoutingevent.com/082-IOLS2017Oct>

We will be offering Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Position Specific Training in WSD the morning of October 14 at the same location as roundtable. Online registration for that class will be posted in the next few days.

We are looking for someone to take on the position of WSD Boy Scout Leader Training Chair. If that might be you, please let me know at jbaake@md.metrocast.net or 301-994-1706 or give me your phone number and I'll call you.

Jon Baake
WSD Training Chair
jbaake@md.metrocast.net





Mission of Scouting Alumni and Friends

"The mission of Scouting Alumni and Friends (SAF) is to support alumni of the Boy Scouts of America and help them find purpose through the organization, empower BSA related affinity groups, and attract and retain all those positively impacted by the Boy Scouts of America."

Aims of SAF

REKINDLE

RECONNECT

REENGAGE

SAF serves every Scouting alum. But it is our loyal and supportive **Hikers** and **Pathfinders** who make Scouting's programs and services for America's youth possible. If you are already a Hiker or Pathfinder, we want to say **THANK YOU!**

If you are not a member, visit <http://www.scoutingalumni.org/> and find out how to become one today.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me (Andrew Willis) at Andrew_d_willis@yahoo.com



Alumni Knot Award



Recognizing those who help Scouting alumni reconnect

Millions of Americans—including your coworkers, friends, and family members—were involved in Scouting at one point in their lives.

The trick is tracking these former members down and asking them to reconnect with the Boy Scouts of America.

Help these one-time Scouts get back in touch with the Scouting program, and you'll be eligible to earn the **Alumni Award square knot**, seen above.

The award recognizes registered Scouters who help unregistered alumni rejoin the program. This task breaks down into four categories of requirements:

Alumni identification and promotion, such as contacting former members, planning alumni activities, and/or presenting to non-Scout groups.

Alumni engagement, including helping two former members become registered Scouters or recruiting alumni to volunteer at Scouting events.

Personal participation, which could mean serving on an alumni committee or sharing your experiences at the BSA Alumni Web site.

Personal education, such as completing the online alumni training or taking an alumni course at the Philmont Training Center.

To view the requirements, please visit: **Alumni Knot Award Application**.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me (Andrew Willis) at Andrew_d_willis@yahoo.com

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is the world's leading youth achievement award, equipping young people for life. The Award is available for all young people aged 14 to 24, regardless of their background, culture, physical ability, skills and interests. It is a fully inclusive program and has no social, political, or religious affiliations.

For additional information visit the Duke of Edinburgh's U.S. website at <https://usaward.org/>

The Award is a program of activities. Each young person who takes part in the Award learns a skill, improves their physical fitness, volunteers in their community and experiences a team adventure in a new environment. Success in the Award is measured by regular participation over a fixed period of time while showing commitment and progress in each activity. All participants are supported by a network of adult mentors called Award Leaders, Assessors, and Coordinators.

The key elements of our program:

1. **Age:** Open to all between the ages of 14 and 24.
2. **Three Levels:** Bronze, Silver, and Gold, each progressively more challenging.
3. **Four Sections:** Physical Recreation, Skills, Service, Adventurous Journey, plus Residential Project (Gold Level only).
4. **Impact:** Achieving an Award recognizes individual goal setting and self-improvement through persistence and achievement.

The fundamentals of the Award

- Requires regular participation in activities to meet the time requirements of each Award Section and Level.
- Focuses on capacity building by encouraging all young people to make independent decisions and to negotiate priorities through participation.
- Provides a framework that works with all young people including those at risk, marginalized, in regional and remote communities, and with disabilities.
- Assists with the provision of social infrastructure in the community and draws together and connects people, institutions and generations with the common purpose of youth development and inclusion.

Western Shore District Website

<https://www.ncacbsa.org/western-shore/>

Have you visited our District website lately? We are always looking for suggestions or information to share with our members.

Webmaster: Bob Davidson (rdavidson@aceweb.com)

Or

Vice Chair - Marketing/Communication: Andrew Willis (Andrew_d_willis@yahoo.com)



September

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 *OA Chapter Meeting *Commissioner Meeting *Roundtable	14	15 OA Lodge Fall Fellowship at Camp William B. Snyder	16 OA Lodge Fall Fellowship at Camp William B. Snyder **Popcorn Distribution at Solomon's Firehouse
17 OA Lodge Fall Fellowship at Camp William B. Snyder	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 ***District Committee Meeting	28	29	30

***Commissioner Meeting** - 630pm-730pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

***OA Chapter Meeting** - 630pm-730pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

***Bake Sale for Buckles** - 7pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

***District Roundtable** - 730pm-9pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

****Popcorn Distribution** - 7am-10am Solomon's Firehouse 13150 H. G. Trueman Rd Solomons, MD

*****District Committee Meeting** - 730-830pm Southern Community Center 20 Appeal Ln Lusby, MD

October

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 *Three Rivers Area Fall OA Ordeal	7 Three Rivers Area Fall OA Ordeal
8 Three Rivers Area Fall OA Ordeal	9	10	11 **OA Chapter Meeting **Commissioner Meeting **Roundtable	12	13	14 ***Leader Specific Training Event
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 ****District Committee Meeting	26	27	28 *****Pow-Wow Training Event
29	30	31				

*Three Rivers Area Fall OA Ordeal - 10/6 6pm-10/8 10am 3255 Kings Landing Rd Huntingtown, Maryland

**Commissioner Meeting - 630pm-730pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

**OA Chapter Meeting - 630pm-730pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

**Scouting for Food Bag Pick-up - 730pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

**District Roundtable - 730pm-9pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

***Leader Specific Training Event 8am-12pm Patuxent Presbyterian Church 23421 Kingston Creek Rd California, MD

****District Committee Meeting 10/25/2017 730-830pm Southern Community Center 20 Appeal Ln Lusby, MD

*****Pow-Wow Training Event 8am-4pm 10/28/2017 TBD