



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Okefenokee Area Council

The S. William Clark, Jr. Boy Scout Service Center
302 Screven Ave. Waycross, Georgia 31501
Telephone #: 912-283-6016 Fax #: 912-283-6019
Website: www.oacbsa.org

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Dear Scout Leader

The BSA National Executive Board unanimously passed a resolution to increase the traditional membership registration fee for all youth and adults to \$15 from its current \$10, effective January 1, 2010. The last fee increase, which was from \$7 to \$10, was in 2003. The Exploring fee remains \$10 for both youth and adults.

A great deal of thought and consideration went into this decision by both the National Executive Board and the National Membership Fee Task Force led by National Commissioner Tico Perez. Consideration was given to an expected deficit to the National Council operating budget, the impact to program and council support, the necessary funding required over the next several years, the cost of implementing fee increases annually in systems and forms, as well as the overall fees paid by councils. Input was sought and received from staff and volunteers at the council level. Finally, given all these considerations, it was determined that the best approach was to increase the fee to the level chosen and make every effort to hold that level for a period of at least three years.

The registration fee is based on the effective date of the registration. Since all Okefenokee Area Council units currently have charters that expire December 31, 2009, when a unit submits their registration renewal online through Internet Re-chartering before January 1, 2010, units will pay the \$15 registration fee because the effective date of the renewal will be January 1, 2010.

During this past Fall's recruitment period, we asked each new scout to pay for the remainder of this year, 2009, and all of next year, 2010. It was our understanding that units re-chartering in December would still be using the current fee. This means the additional fee of five dollars will need to be collected during your re-charter process from each Scout recruited this past fall. We are sorry any inconvenience and if you have any questions feel free to contact your District Executive or me at the Council Service Center.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting and for the Scouts in your units.

Yours in Scouting,

Vance H. Lackey
Scout Executive

FAQ Regarding BSA Registration Fee Increase

Q. Why is the membership fee being increased, especially now, during such difficult economic times?

A. The National Council is committed to providing added benefits to local councils and volunteers to support the delivery of high-quality Scouting programs in every community. A key investment continues to be in providing more user-friendly Web-based resources. For example, via MyScouting, volunteers will be able to complete even more training requirements on their own schedule, 24 hours a day, via online resources. This will complement their current ability to recharter and manage advancement records online, complete and submit tour permits, and participate in the Scouting Community social network, which continues to grow. Also, in the future, new-member registration will be available online.

As good stewards, we strive to keep costs to a minimum. And, we are proud that, even with this increase, youth can receive the full benefits of Scouting membership for only \$1.25 per month.

The National Executive Board reviewed revenue and expense projections along with the planned initiatives over the next several years, recognizing that the annual registration fee would not meet expenses. The Board decided that the fee could be increased each year or every other year to keep pace with the expected expenditures, or that it could be raised to the level chosen and held in place over the next several years.

Q. How long is this new fee level expected to be in place?

A. The National Executive Board, in its approved resolution, noted that it would endeavor to hold this new fee level at least three years.

Q. When does the registration fee increase take effect?

A. All traditional Scouting registrations with an effective date of January 1, 2010, or later will pay the new \$15 registration fee or prorated fee of \$1.25 per month.

Q. How do you determine who pays the current \$10 registration fee and who pays the increased \$15 registration fee?

A. The registration fee is based on the effective date of the registration. Any registration for traditional Scouting with an effective date before January 1, 2010, will pay the \$10 registration fee or prorated fee of \$0.85 a month. Any registration for traditional Scouting with an effective date after December 2009 will pay the \$15 registration fee or prorated fee of \$1.25 per month.

Q. Since nearly all Okefenokee Area Council units currently have charters that expire December 31, 2009, when these units submit their registration renewal online through Internet Rechartering before January 1, 2010, will they pay the current \$10 registration fee or the increased \$15 registration fee?

A. Units will pay the \$15 registration fee because the effective date of the renewal will be January 1, 2010.