

National Capital Area Council, BSA



Understanding the Participation Fee

updated June 30, 2023

The NCAC Council Participation Fee

After an intensive 18-month strategic planning process, NCAC's volunteer Executive Board determined that our Scouts would be better served by a local Council Participation Fee that would provide consistent revenue and be more equitable to those who support our Scouts. Beginning January 1, 2024, an annual Council Participation Fee of \$80.00 will be assessed to all youth participating in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts programs. For Scouts currently registered, the Council Participation Fee will be collected as part of your annual re-registration -- often referred to as "rechartering."

- Families with three (3) or more Scouts will be capped at paying three (3) Participation Fees.
- Scouts participating in more than one program will pay one (1) Participation Fee.
- **No youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the Participation Fee.** NCAC has always provided financial assistance when needed and will continue to do so.

Annual Membership Fees

- NCAC does not directly receive any of the BSA membership fees currently paid as shown in the graphic.
- Units may have additional fees or dues to pay for a unit's programs and activities; those fees also remain with the unit, and do not go to NCAC. Many units also fundraise for these fees and activities, we encourage units to continue those efforts.

ANNUAL YOUTH FEES	
 BSA	 \$80 Membership Fee
	 \$25 SCOUT LIFE MAGAZINE
 NCAC	 \$80 Participation Fee
Scouting Units - Packs, Troops, Crews and Ships	
Fees Vary by Unit	

Why is there a new Council Participation Fee?

NCAC works tirelessly to deliver a safe and high-quality Scouting program to our families in a cost-effective manner. Today it annually costs \$240.00 per youth to deliver this quality Scouting program.

In prior years, NCAC has subsidized 100% of this cost through corporate donations, major gifts, foundations, fundraising events, board donations, and our Family Friends of Scouting campaign. However, in recent years, the combination of a steady decline in participation in our Family Friends of Scouting -- less than 10% of all families in Scouting -- and the volunteer and professional costs required to maintain this campaign has made it impractical to continue this model.

Nationwide, we have seen many other local councils successfully transition to this participation fee model, while focusing on membership growth. This change will also allow our staff and volunteer time to directly support our units and programs instead of soliciting contributions.

[NCACBSA.ORG/PARTICIPATION-FEE](https://ncacbsa.org/participation-fee)