



Understanding the Participation Fee

National Capital Area Council, BSA

www.NCACBSA.org

June 30, 2023



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

A Message from the Council Key 3

Dear Scouting Friends,

The mission of the BSA 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 Law.

As part of this mission, your local council, the National Capital Area Council (NCAC), is constantly working to maintain and expand its positive impact in our communities. After an extensive 18-month process, we developed a Strategic Plan that has challenged us to grow to 50,000 Scouts, reevaluate and accelerate our fundraising, and proactively communicate the value of Scouting and our positive impact on the communities we serve, among other important priorities.

To support Scouting's mission, we are implementing a local Council Participation Fee for youth members. This change will transform NCAC's ability to serve each Scout by refocusing our professional Scouting staff and volunteers time toward improving customer service to our Scouts and their families. We are committed to enhancing our Scouting program offerings and meaningfully serving more youth and families.

After receiving considerable input through multiple listening sessions, we have prepared this overview to create clarity around our local council, our funding, and the Participation Fee. We are sharing directly with you how we operate and how we will most effectively steward our resources to deliver the Scouting mission.

Scouting transforms lives and communities, creates new friendships and lifelong connections for youth and adults. Thanks for your continued support and commitment to Scouting.

Sincerely,

Morgan H. Sullivan
Council President

Julia Mae-Shen Lesko
Council Commissioner

Mario A. Pérez
Scout Executive/CEO





What is the NCAC Participation Fee?

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 next 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.

BSA is changing the way rechartering will be completed starting in 2024. Details will be provided later this year as additional information regarding this new process becomes available.

Understanding Annual Fees

ANNUAL YOUTH FEES	
 BSA	    \$80 Membership Fee
	BSA YOUTH NEW-MEMBER JOINING FEE     \$25
	SCOUT LIFE MAGAZINE \$15
 NCAC	    \$80 Participation Fee
Scouting Units - Packs, Troops, Crews and Ships	
Fees Vary by Unit	

NCAC does not retain any of the membership fees (annual fee/new-member fees) paid to BSA.

Units may have additional fees/dues that cover all or a portion of the unit's programs and activities; those fees remain with the unit, and do not go to NCAC. Many units also fundraise to pay for their fees and activities. We encourage units to continue their fundraising efforts to help families defray the costs of unit activities and other fees associated with their participation in Scouting.

Why is there a new Council Participation Fee?

For many years through corporate, foundation, Executive Board, and other major donor fundraising, NCAC has been able to subsidize the full annual cost (\$240.00 per Scout) and will continue to cover two-thirds of the cost per Scout. However, the decline in families participating in our Family FOS program (less than 10% of all families in Scouting) coupled with the volunteer and professional staff manpower required to implement the campaign, make the return on investment to this solicitation campaign, no longer viable.

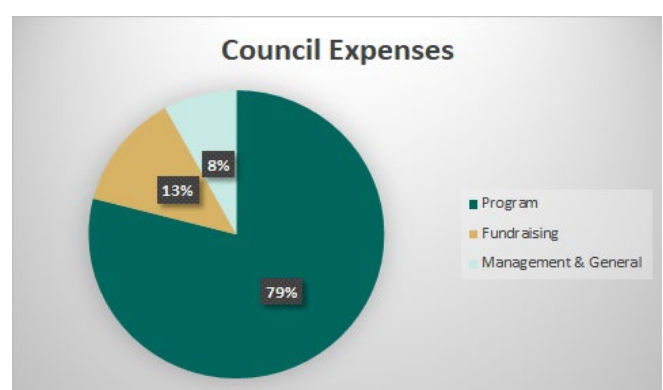
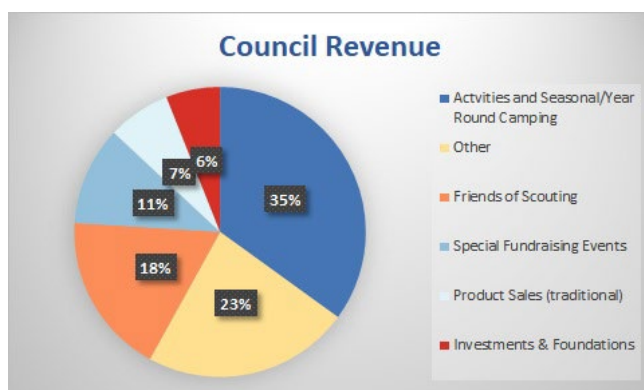


After an intensive 18-month Strategic Plan development process, the volunteer leadership of NCAC's Executive Board determined that our Scouts will be better served by a Council Participation Fee that will provide consistent revenue, be more equitable, and help support the true cost of Scouting.

Nationwide, many councils have successfully transitioned to Council participation/program fees to replace the traditional Family Friends of Scouting campaigns. While the structure of these fees varies widely, the motivation has been similar to that of our Council, which is to reduce the manpower required to implement the campaign and create a more equitable and effective source of support. This will also allow our staff and volunteer time to be used in directly supporting our units and programs instead of soliciting contributions.

Understanding Your Local Council's Funding

2022 Council Budget:



Other Revenue includes online product sales, sale of supplies, direct mail, workplace giving programs, income from rents (Scout shops), insurance fee, online scout shop and popcorn commission, merchant service convenience fee recovery, among other categories.

Management and general costs support expenses associated with the management of the council and include costs like governance, accounting, and management.

How NCAC Supports Each Family's Journey



Before the Scout joins, NCAC **shares recruitment materials**, trains volunteers, and shares Scout stories so families know the benefits of Scouting.



When a Scout joins, NCAC **processes applications**, transmit fees, and assists with the online process.



As every Scout deserves a trained leader, NCAC **makes training possible**, confirms background checks and Youth Protection Training, reviews weekly criminal background reports, and assists leaders throughout the training process.

NCAC **provides the liability insurance, handles all incident reports** to keep the Scout safe, and **processes volunteer awards** to inspire and affirm the best leadership qualities within the program.

As the Scout advances through the program, NCAC **helps parents access their Scout's profile** in My.Scouting and assists with record discrepancies.



In order for Scouts BSA to earn merit badges, NCAC **processes all Merit Badge counselor applications** and keep their profiles updated with the badges offered in all of our 20 districts (geographic service areas within the Council).



NCAC works with volunteers to **plan special Council-wide experiences** such as climbing and orienteering events, the Council Pinewood Derby, and extensive STEM activities.

NCAC **makes it possible for districts to offer events**, such as Day Camps, Camporees, and Klondike Derbys and provides the insurance coverage for the events. NCAC staff send newsletters to families and leaders, maintain NCAC's websites/blog, and social media accounts to keep Scouts and their families informed.

NCAC **provides extensive camping adventures** for our Scouts at the camps owned by the Council and offers a variety of programming throughout the year including family camping weekends.



NCAC **makes three Scout Shops possible** for the purchase of the uniforms, awards, etc. needed for the Scouting experience and maintains the Marriott Scout Service Center to deliver all services and **fulfill the functions that are required of any nonprofit organization**.



When a Scout passes the Eagle Board of Review and attains the rank of Eagle Scout, NCAC enters the accomplishment into the records and notifies the Scout's leader. NCAC **purchases, then gifts, an Eagle Kit** with pins for every Scout and his/her adult partners. NCAC staff handle Eagle scholarship applications and verify the rank to enhance the Scout's future endeavors.



How NCAC Supports the Delivery of Scouting

Governance and Youth Safety

- Maintains volunteer records to ensure all leaders have background checks and completed Youth Protection Training
- Reviews criminal background reports, contacts applicants with errors, and assists leaders throughout training
- Issues insurance to protect our volunteers, charter organizations, staff members, and properties
- Supports incident reporting to ensure our Scouts and volunteers are safe

Memberships & Relationships

- Assists with youth and adult applications
- Reviews and processes financial support and campership requests
- Reviews and processes Eagle Scout advancement records and notifies unit leaders when complete
- Plans, develops, produces, and distributes recruiting and membership resources
- Offers training seminars, like the Annual Growth Conference, which includes materials and program development by staff
- Membership recruitment support through advanced technology i.e. Heat maps
- Supports unit membership and recruitment efforts with printed and digital resources and ads
- Shares information through the Council's newsletters, website, and social media accounts
- Trains district volunteers on the communication platforms funded by the Council for their use
- Publishes stories about the accomplishments of Scouts and units on weownadventure.com

Program and Unit Service

- Provides professional District Executives for each District
- Invests in training for professional Scouting staff to provide high-quality support to our units
- Counsels and provides guidance and resources to all Scouting units
- Provides professional staff for all Cub Scout Day Camps
- Processes applications and provides Certificates of Insurance (COI) for required events and when requested by units
- Plans and supports local district events like Camporees, Day Camps, and special events to complement unit programs
- Provides the event registration system
- Purchases supplies for local events and training programs
- Identifies and rents locations for training programs
- Processes and presents District and Council recognition awards for Scouts and volunteers
- Plans and implements council events
- Sponsors crews to BSA National High Adventure bases

Finance Support

- Raises funds to support all the work of the Council
- Processes invoices, reimbursements, and payments for all Scouting program expenses
- Manages all contracts and facility rentals for units to support popcorn sale
- Provides staff to support all areas of popcorn sales and distribution
- Supports all administrative needs including printing, postage, IT systems and support, audio visual equipment, local council website online collaboration tools, and email marketing platform.

How do we ensure no youth is left behind?

No youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the Council Participation Fee. NCAC has always provided financial assistance when needed and will continue to do so.

If you would like to make a charitable donation to ensure that every young person who wants to experience the Scouting program has the opportunity, please visit: www.ncacbsa.org/participation-fee

A portion of our Endowment Fund provides funding to assist financially deserving Scouts with program and camperships for youth to attend summer camp. For more information on Endowment go to www.ncacbsa.org/endowment-planned-giving



The Financial Support Process

While the details of how financial support will be requested and provided are still being finalized, our commitment to families is to make this a simple process. Financial support will be available for the new Council Participation Fee and will continue to be available for BSA membership fees and camperships for our local council summer camps and day camps. NCAC remains committed to raising the funds needed through various fundraising and revenue generation mechanisms, to ensure Scouting is available to every youth who wants to be a Scout.

Additional Information

Participation Fee Information and FAQ: NCACBSA.ORG/PARTICIPATION-FEE

Contact the Participation Fee Committee: PARTICIPATIONFEE@NCACBSA.ORG



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The National Capital Area Council, BSA (NCAC) works to fulfill the mission of the Boy Scouts of America and to continuously position ourselves to best serve the youth across our Council in the District of Columbia, 16 counties in Maryland and Virginia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. citizens abroad in North and South America. This year, the NCAC is proud to serve over 30,000 youth and support over 18,000 volunteers through a Scouting program featuring innovative programs, world class properties, and dynamic customer service.