

Council Service Fee

FAQ

Updated 6-25-24

1. Why does our council need a service fee?
 - a. Unfortunately, the sources of current revenue for your local council have not kept up with the cost of operation. The council operating budget has not grown in the past 10 years, but costs have continued to rise. The popcorn and family Friends of Scouting have seen large decreases in the past 5 years. While implementing a council service fee is not ideal, it is needed to continue to the current level of services.

2. Is there a service fee for adults?
 - a. The council service fee is for youth only.

3. Is there a discount for families that have multiple youth in Scouting?
 - a. Families with multiple youth registered in Scouting will pay a maximum Local Council service fee of \$100 for all registered youth. However, because registration fees are paid when online are directly collected by National Office, each youth registering will be required to pay the \$40 service fee. The family may then apply to the Black Swamp Area Council for reimbursement of any service fees over \$100. This family max only applies to the \$40 council service fee portion, not the \$85 national fee. The reimbursement form can be found at this [LINK](#). The National Office is working to provide enhanced technology that will eliminate the need for reimbursement in the future. Watch for the reimbursement forms prior to August 1.

4. When will the fee be paid?
 - a. For new youth members, the fee will be paid when they join Scouting, either online or with the paper applications submitted to the council service center by the units. For renewals, since membership registration is now on the annual anniversary of registration, (elimination of the prorated fee), the fee will be collected by the National Office when the individual or unit registers the Scout.

5. My Family cannot afford the registration fee to join Scouting?
 - a. No family will be turned away if they can afford the registration fee to join Scouting, the application for registration assistance can be found at this [LINK](#)
Part of the Scout Law is a Scout is thrifty and works to pay their only way, families requesting registration assistance are expected to help pay a portion of the registration fees. If requesting registration assistance, paper membership applications are required. Registration assistance is only available to cover the

national registration fee and the local council service fee, not local Pack or Troop dues.

6. How will the new members receive their first handbook?
 - a. Within the first month of joining, new youth members will be emailed a coupon to be redeemed at either the Findlay or Lima Scout shop. This coupon is not redeemable online or at any other Scout retail location, this needs to be used within 3 months after the youth registers to be a Scout..

7. How will renewing members receive their 10% discount coupon and does it expire?
 - a. Returning members will be emailed a coupon to be redeemed at either the Findlay or Lima Scout shop. This coupon is not redeemable online or at any other Scout retail location. The coupon will be good for up to 4 months after the membership renewal. Coupons will be issued during the first week after the membership renewal is effective. i.e., if their registration is effective January 1, the coupon will be emailed in February.

8. How will units reserve tent campsites (non-summer camp from September 1 to May 30 annually) at Camp Lakota and Camp Berry with no charge?
 - a. Units must reserve the campsite as an in-council unit and there will be no charge. Sites that have cabins will continue to have a rental fee.

9. What happens when a youth does not renew their membership at the expiration date, but decides within a year that they want to re-join (commonly know as separated re-registered/SR)?
 - a. This Scout will receive the 10% discount coupon, good for 4 months from the first-time registration date. A Scout that has been not registered for over a year will receive the coupon for a new handbook.

10. How can Scouts pay for their council service fee with the Popcorn or Coffee sale?
 - a. If a Scout Sells 10 containers of Popcorn or Coffee, that will cover their cost of the council service fee. Note the funds generated to cover the council fee will be part of the unit commission, not in addition too, and the fees will need to be paid as normal.