

Council Fee Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why are you adding this additional fee?**

Currently, 100% of the membership fees paid to the Minsi Trails Council go to the National Council to cover Scouting America's operating costs. None of those funds are kept locally to operate the Minsi Trails Council. In order to fund our \$3 million operating budget, we rely on various sources including Family Friends of Scouting, other fundraising efforts, revenues from Camp Minsi, Scout Shop sales, and other smaller sources. By transitioning away from the Family Friends of Scouting model, staff and volunteer time will be freed up to focus on supporting unit leaders, and growing Scouting.

- **What do I get for my \$65 Council fee for each Scout?**

Families will see reduced or eliminated district activity fees in addition to not being solicited to donate during a Family Friends of Scouting presentation at a unit event. Our intent is to no longer charge for those events, although some adventure-themed activities may require an additional small fee. We will continue to reduce the summer camp fee at Camp Minsi by \$75 for Minsi Trails Council Scouts.

- **Do other Councils charge a Council fee?**

Yes. We are one of the few remaining Councils to not implement a Council fee. Looking at Council fees of our neighboring Councils, the average youth fee is \$54 and the average adult fee is \$27.

- **Why not use the leftover funds from the Camp Trexler sale?**

The Minsi Trails Council Executive Board has determined that the prudent use of those funds is to preserve them in our Council's endowment. The proceeds from those investments will allow us to keep our Council fee low and financially support the Council's operations in perpetuity.

- **What does this \$65 Council fee pay for?**

The Council fee primarily replaces the Family Friends of Scouting efforts which support the annual operation of the Minsi Trails Council. This includes operating costs at the Council's Service Center and Scout Shop, staffing, insurance, and other overhead expenses. In addition, this will

cover expenses for district activities like Klondike Derbies, Camporees, and Pinewood Derbies so families need not pay additional fees throughout the year.

- **Who will need to pay this fee?**

The \$65 will be assessed on all new and re-registering youth members beginning in December, 2025. There will be no Council fee charged to adult volunteers. If a youth member participates with more than one unit, he or she will only be charged the Council fee once.

- **How will this fee be collected?**

The Council fee will be collected in my.scouting for families that register or renew their membership online. The online system will show separate lines for the National and Council fees, but will combine them into one charge.

Units that do not currently encourage their members to pay their own individual registration fees will need to include this new fee in their payment to Council. We strongly encourage all units to use the system for member renewal as designed. More training on this will be available, and units committees should discuss and work with their members to renew on time and online.

- **What if I already donate to Friends of Scouting?**

We appreciate your support! While we will no longer conduct Family Friends of Scouting presentations at unit events, we will provide families with opportunities to donate if they wish through other avenues.

- **What if a family cannot afford this additional fee?**

Our desire is that no family is turned away from Scouting because of costs. We recognize that some families may encounter difficulties with an additional fee. As such, we will waive the \$65 Council Fee for any family that qualifies for Pennsylvania Medical Assistance or New Jersey FamilyCare. We are developing a simple process for families to indicate their qualification for the fee reduction and will communicate that this Fall.