Insurance Recovery Fee
Frequently Asked Questions:

October 10, 2019

1. **What will be the total cost per registered member in 2020?**
The total annual cost per registered member for 2020 will be $57 as of this date of this letter. However, we have been notified that the National BSA Council will be increasing their fees. The announcement is set for later this month in October. Below is a breakdown of the costs:
- $33 – National Membership Fee (NOTE: we have been notified that this will increase)
- $24 – Insurance Recovery Fee
- $57 – TOTAL

Note: we do understand many units charge their own dues that are not reflected or calculated here.

2. **Does the insurance recovery fee mean we are not doing FOS?**
No. We are still doing our annual Friends of Scouting Campaign. The insurance recovery fee only covers the tremendous increase in property and other insurances that we have experienced over the last couple of years.

3. **Ok, so what exactly is this new insurance fee and where did it come from?**
The Long Beach Area Council has paid several insurances on behalf of registered youth and adults for decades. These various policies include general liability, accident and sickness, property, hull (for vessels at the Sea Base), and – most costly as of late – fire protection. Camp Tahquitz in particular has a very high fire risk. For years our national office has prohibited our ability to pass along these costs, until now. We are only charging what our true insurance costs are.

4. **Doesn't the $57 annual registration fee cover the needs of the council?**
No. The $57 annual fee includes $33 for national registration and $24 for local insurance. The $33 national registration fee benefits the national organization. No portion of the annual national registration fee goes toward council program support. The true cost per member is around $600 per year to sustain annual Scouting operations in our local council. We subsidize a large majority of that cost through grants, by fundraising in the community, and through our investments. As high as the cost per member may seem, it is important to remember that our Long Beach Area Council has earned the highest four-star rating on Charity Navigator for financial transparency and operational efficiency. On top of that, we are the highest rated council out of 259 nationwide.

5. **How will the Insurance Recovery Fee be collected?**
The insurance recovery fee will be collected at the time of re-charter. It will be included in the member registration fees. The fees will then be prorated at $2 per month for registrations that come in mid-year.

6. **Don't camp fees and activity revenue cover the cost of Scouting?**
No. Camping and activity revenue do not cover the cost to fully maintain and develop our camps. In the last five years alone, we have invested over $2 million at Camp Tahquitz and at the Sea Base – none of which was paid with fees generated from camping or activity revenue.
7. Are we the only council with an Insurance Recovery Fee?
No. Most of the councils in Southern California have instituted this fee. In fact, we are one of the last councils to adopt an insurance recovery fee.

Questions regarding the National Registration Fee Increase

8. Who is guiding the process regarding membership fee changes?
A vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is identifying viable options and considering the best way forward as we evaluate the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program.

9. What do you expect the new fee to be in 2020?
We do not know the amount of the expected increase at this time since this requires National Executive Committee input and approval.

10. Why is this happening now?
The expected membership fee increase is the direct result of a significant increase in the cost of liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities.

11. How will this impact the current rechartering process?
The online rechartering process opened as planned on October 1, 2019. The process will go forth as usual except for the "calculate fees" portion, which won't be functional until November 1st.

12. What should units do if they have already collected 2020 membership fees?
Unfortunately, units will need to collect the additional funds from families once the new amount is known.

13. When will the organization make a decision about the 2020 membership fee increase?
We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019.