

Dear Scout Leader,

Implementing quality Scouting programs take the efforts of many valued volunteers. Please know that parents, community members and Scouts appreciate your hard work and contributions allowing your unit's program to provide great experiences and lasting memories. Thank you in advance for your leadership in successfully completing your unit's 2020 rechartering process. The Crossroads of America Council volunteer commissioners and staff will help as much as possible so you can complete your unit's recharter by November 30, 2019.

As our national organization evaluates the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program, a vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is considering the best way forward. This will require implementing increases in the national membership fee, council provided accident & sickness insurance, and general liability insurance for chartering organizations as of January 1, 2020. This change is being driven by the significant cost increase of liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities.

We do not know the amount of the increase at this time since this decision will require National Executive Committee input and approval, but we have been notified that the new registration fee will be announced by National no later than October 23, 2019.

Please know that National is only considering this change out of necessity, and we are committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. That is why, in anticipation of a fee increase, our Council is committed to our continued assistance to all families and youth in need that want to be Scouts.

We recognize the timing of this fee increase creates challenges as units have already begun collecting fees for their 2020 registration renewal process. On behalf of the national organization, we sincerely apologize and hope you understand that our organization would not be pursuing this path were it not absolutely necessary to ensure the BSA can continue carrying out its mission to serve youth. We are committed to supporting all units through this process and national is making necessary adjustments to the online rechartering system to ensure units can complete rechartering with as few issues as possible.

Any last-minute fee increase impacts your unit budget plan. It also has the potential to disrupt your Ideal Year of Scouting calendar if funds from your unit budget are diverted from planned programs to cover registration and insurance fees. Our volunteer commissioners and staff will actively reach out to all units to provide help needed. Remember, there are still a few weeks of the Popcorn Sales remaining to help your unit's Ideal Year of Scouting plan for 2020. Please review the [FAQ document](#) regarding the membership fee.

If you have not already begun preparing for your charter renewal, you should begin now by following the steps outlined below:

- **Assign a volunteer to serve as the charter renewal processor.**
- **Review information found on the council's [Rechartering Resources](#) page.**
- **Survey youth members and adult volunteers** to determine who will be renewing their membership in the Boy Scouts of America for the upcoming charter year.
- **On October 1, begin the online charter renewal process.** You must register as a "First Time User" in the Unit Charter Renewal System each charter year. This is **Internet Rechartering Version 9**, which allows units to fully revise the Unit Roster. Processing will end prior to the final steps before Submittal to Council. This interim version will direct units to return to **Internet Rechartering Version 10** to complete the renewal process. No fee information is included in **Version 9**.
- **On November 1, return and complete the charter renewal process on Version 10.** Units that used **Version 9** will begin as Returning Users to complete their renewals and Submit to Council.
- **Submit the completed Unit Charter Renewal Report Package (not the Renewal Report E-Z Summary) and payment, if not paid online, at your charter turn-in.**

2019 Updates:

- **Criminal Background Re-Checks and Updated Forms** – since 2003, background checks have been conducted on every new adult when they apply to register, and in 2008 a background check was conducted on all currently registered adults. In 2020, the BSA will implement periodic criminal background checks on a five-year **basis**. The first periodic recheck will take place next January.

In preparation for this, the required disclosures and authorization documents are being updated to ensure compliance with current local, state and federal laws.

Around October 7, the National Service Center will send an email with three separate background check disclosures and authorization form documents to all currently registered adults who have a valid email address listed in their ScoutNET person profile. These forms will be available at the [Rechartering Resources](#) page, roundtables and at Council Scout Shops. **A new, signed authorization form is required before any adult's annual registration will be processed.**

- **Mandatory Youth Protection Training** – Crossroads of America Council is a leader in the movement to provide safe spaces and protection to our Scouting families. All registered adult leaders must complete the updated Youth Protection training (released in spring 2018). The status of currently registered adult leaders may be found online at my.scouting.org. Adults without the updated Youth Protection Training may not continue functioning in a leadership role.

- **Cub Scout Direct Contact Leader Training** – Adults registered in the following direct contact roles must complete position specific training at <https://my.scouting.org>.
 - Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmasters
 - Lion Guides
 - Tiger Leaders
 - Den Leaders and Assistants
 - Webelos Leaders and Assistants

Any leaders who have not completed the training will be removed from their role and must stop working with youth.

- **Scouts BSA Direct Contact Leader Training** – Scouts BSA leaders must be trained for their respective positions by December 31, 2019 to be registered for their positions in 2020. Starting January 1, 2020 Scouts BSA leaders who assume Direct Contact positions have until the end of the calendar year to complete the training necessary for their positions.
- **Journey to Excellence (JTE)** completed scorecards are to be turned in with your charter. When filling out the 2019 scorecard from www.scouting.org/jte, use year-to-date data and an estimate of future results (based on activities scheduled) for the remainder of the year to determine how many points your unit has earned.

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