

READ THIS FIRST!

Membership fee increases

The online recharter system will open as planned on October 1st. However, because of the anticipated **membership fee increases from the National Boy Scouts of America organization**, the fees will not appear in the system until the new fees are announced on **November 1**. (See the reverse side of this page for the information released 9/20/19 regarding the potential fee increase).

You can begin the recharter process now by logging in and ensuring all active members are listed on your roster and by removing inactive members. We will inform all units as soon as the National organization announces the new membership fees, and you can finalize your recharter at that time.

Required Disclosure forms

In 2020, the Boy Scouts of America will implement periodic criminal background checks on a five-year basis and will begin with this recharter cycle. Each **RETURNING** adult volunteer will need to complete and sign a disclosure form. Please include these disclosure forms for each adult volunteer when you turn your recharter in as it is required to process the charter. A blank disclosure form and information is provided for each leader, but please make copies as necessary. An e-mail will also be sent to all registered leaders by the National BSA office with this information.

Copy of e-mail sent to all registered adult leaders

September, 20, 2019

Scouting family,

The Greater St. Louis Area Council just received two announcements from the BSA National Office which will impact all units during the upcoming recharter cycle. While full details are not yet available, we wanted to share the news with you as quickly as possible.

1. Volunteer Background Checks

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is committed first and foremost to keeping youth safe. Part of that commitment includes continually updating our youth protection policies to help ensure we are always on the forefront of youth safety.

As you know, one of the BSA's many barriers to abuse is a mandatory criminal background check during the adult volunteer application process. To standardize how the BSA administers background checks, particularly, how the organization will re-run background checks, a new authorization form will be required. The national office anticipates emailing the disclosures mid-October directly to all adult Scouters from the national office. The Greater St. Louis Area Council will also provide copies in the recharter packets. The authorization forms will be required from all adults at re-charter time. We will not be able to process a re-charter without forms from all Scouters.

We are truly grateful for your continued commitment to keeping youth safe and for helping them learn, grow, and thrive through Scouting programs.

2. Potential Membership Fee Increase

The BSA National Office is considering a membership fee increase for 2020. The following is an excerpt from the communication that we've received from Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh:

"As we evaluate 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 that will likely require us to implement a national membership fee increase for youth members and adult leaders as of January 1, 2020. This prospective change is being driven by the significant cost increase of the 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 requires National Executive Committee input and approval.

We recognize the timing of this likely fee increase creates challenges as units have already begun collecting fees for their 2020 registration renewal process. We sincerely apologize and hope you understand that we 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 you through this process and are making necessary adjustments to the online rechartering system to ensure units can carry out the normal yearly process with as few issues as possible.

We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019, which would take effect on January 1, 2020."

Recognizing units may need to raise additional funds to recharter in December, The Greater St. Louis Area Council has been working closely with our partners at Pecatonica River Popcorn to provide a weekly delivery option to make the most of the Popcorn Show & Sell campaign. If you would like to order more popcorn for your Show & Sell please go to www.prpopcorn.com. If you have not signed up for the sale please visit <https://stlbsa.org/activities/fundraising/popcorn-sales/> for more information.

Additional information will be shared immediately as details are confirmed.

In closing, please know The Greater St. Louis Area Council continues to be committed to our members, families, and chartered organizations. We apologize for any inconvenience this may place on your unit and its leadership. Thank you for your involvement in positively impacting kids and changing communities through the Scouting program. If you have any further questions or wish additional information, please contact Joe Sadewasser, Director of Field Service, at Joe.Sadewasser@scouting.org.