

## **Hawk Mountain Council Service Fee**

### **FAQ**

#### **Why is an increased fee needed?**

Due to increased inflationary pressure, declining revenues, and higher obligations to the national organization, Hawk Mountain Council finds itself needing to increase the Service Fee to continue to deliver Scouting to the families of Berks, Schuylkill, and Carbon counties.

#### **What does the Service Fee Cover?**

Costs to deliver the Scouting program in our council include insurance, the cost of adult and youth recruiting campaigns and materials, background checks, adult, and youth training, maintaining our camp facilities, council-wide communications as well as district activities. It also includes professional staff and administrative support to help facilitate the program. While there will still be costs to participate in some activities, the organization and support costs are covered by the Service Fee.

#### **How is this Service Fee different from the insurance fee that has been collected from all registered members in the past?**

The Council currently has an Insurance Fee of \$15 that helps to offset the cost of insurance for programs in the Council. This new fee will include both the rising cost of insurance and program delivery.

#### **Who made the decision to move to a Service Fee?**

A task force made up of district and council-level volunteers met over the past two years to evaluate the financial needs of the Council. This task force made a recommendation to the Council Executive Board in September 2022, to increase the fee. After much discussion the Board approved this recommendation.

#### **How will the Service Fee be collected?**

The new Service Fee will be collected in full at recharter time and then as a monthly prorated fee (\$4.59 per youth and \$2.50 per adult) when new youth and adults join the program outside of the recharter time frame.

#### **What if a family cannot afford the new Service Fee?**

As a part of the Service Fee units will retain 5% of the total amount owed during recharter to assist families within the unit. Families with more than one youth in the program will receive a multi-youth discount of \$20 per additional youth member. Units with families that need assistance beyond this 5% and cannot be covered by the unit, can contact the Council to work on additional assistance.

### **How can a family request assistance?**

Families needing registration assistance should work through their unit. If a unit needs additional help, the Council has a fund to support families in need. Additional information will be provided at year-end on how to apply online.

### **Does this Service Fee take the place of Friends of Scouting?**

No. We recognize and understand that not all of our families can donate to the annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) appeal. We encourage those who can contribute to FOS, continue to do so. We, however, will not be holding the traditional family presentations as we have done in the past.

### **Will the Service Fee Increase?**

The Board has committed to keeping the fee as low as possible for as long as possible. This will be addressed through the annual budget process of the Council.

### **Are other councils also charging a fee?**

Yes, there are other councils in our area and throughout the country charging a service fee. The National BSA has formally allowed local councils to charge a service fee base on their local needs. The fee cannot be greater than the National Membership Fee.