

**Program Fee**  
**FAQ**

**Q: Why a Program Fee**

A: As the organization's financial situation has shifted over the past several years, it is no longer possible to subsidize Scouting activities at the level we have in the past. Mid-Iowa Council has worked to keep the annual expenses as low as possible to make Scouting available to as many young people as possible by subsidizing core costs, including liability insurance required for all official Scouting activities.

**Q: Does this apply to youth members and volunteers?**

A: Yes, the new fees apply for youth and adult members. Effective January 1, 2021, the new fees are:  
**Youth:** \$66 National Registration, \$12 Scouts' Life subscription, **\$102** MIC Program Fee, **\$180** Total  
**Adult:** \$42 National Registration, \$12 Scouts' Life subscription, **\$90** MIC Program Fee, **\$144** Total  
(Scouts' Life subscription is optional.)—

**Q: Is there a payment plan?**

A: Yes. Scoutpay, an online payment system will be available for use starting March 2021.

**Q: Is there registration assistance available?**

A: We are committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. Our 2021 council budget includes a significant increase in the funding for need-based registration scholarships (43% increase since 2019 in specific assistance to individuals). The form to request assistance is at <https://scoutingiowa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/workership-request-revised.pdf>

**Q: Is there a discount for a family with three or more members?**

A: Not currently. There is registration assistance available for families and the Board is committed to looking at that option for next year.

**Q: Is Scouting still a good value?**

A: Absolutely! While most extracurricular activities are seasonal, Scouting is a year-round program that remains one of the most valuable investments we can make to support young men and women today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow. For most of our youth members, the new registration fee amounts to \$15 a month, which is an enormous value when you consider that many seasonal extracurricular activities often start at \$100 for programs that last a few weeks.

**Q: What will the money be used for?**

A: Every dollar of the program fee will go to cover the cost of essential services, including liability and health insurance for members participating in approved Scouting activities, background checks for adult leaders, program development and training resources, youth protection and youth safety training, improved IT/digital experiences and services to our Chartering Organizations. In addition no more District Camporee fees, no more Twilight Camp fees, no more District Pinewood Derby fees, no more FOS Presentations soliciting donations at the Blue & Gold Banquet, no more Klondike Derby fees, no more fees for District or Council training events.

**Q: Why is this being announced now?**

A: The fees are due December 31 with the annual Unit renewal process. We wanted to give Units enough time to adjust to the new fee structure. Mid-Iowa Councils Board would not make this difficult decision if it were not absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, the cost of liability insurance we must carry to cover all Scouting activities has increased dramatically over the past several years coupled with declining participation in Family FOS and Product sales.

**Q: When will this increase take effect?**

A: The new membership fees will take effect for the 2022 program year. Starting January 1, 2021 payment plans are available so all fees can be paid in full by December 2021 for the 2022 program year.

**Q: What measures has the Mid-Iowa Council taken to offset the financial challenges?**

A: Mid-Iowa Council is addressing financial challenges by generating additional revenue sources and cutting expenses. For instance,

Governor's Luncheon est. 2010

NEW FUNDRAISER: "Promises, Promises" Dinner & Auction est. 2019

NEW FUNDRAISER: "Take Your Best Shot for Scouting" Sporting Clays Tournament re-est. 2019  
Expense decreased 26% since 2018

**Q: Will the national membership fee continue to increase?**

A: Although no decision about future increases have been made, the cost of operating our organization and services increases every year. Should it be necessary to increase fees in the future, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has agreed to evaluate the needs and make such decisions, whenever possible, at the National Annual Meeting in May or early in the summer so that they can be announced with as much lead time as possible to allow for councils and units to be able to plan accordingly.