



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA®

HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL

TO: Unit, District, and Council Leadership

FROM: Howard Hellman - Council President  
Jackie Heubach, Esq. - Council Commissioner  
David Horton - Scout Executive

RE: Operations and Service Fee – Hudson Valley Council

At the June 2015 Council Finance committee meeting, a recommendation was made to the Council Executive Board, to initiate a \$36 per person operations and service fee, to benefit the Hudson Valley Council, BSA. At the July 2015 Council Executive Board meeting a motion was made, and unanimously accepted, to institute the \$36 per person operations and service fee, effective December 1, 2015.

The operations and service fee is in response to our recent internal conversations relative to Friends of Scouting and the concept of everyone paying their “fair share” of the expenses incurred at the local council level of the scouting organization. From scouting’s inception, local councils raised their own monies & sustained themselves by orchestrating an annual Friends of Scouting campaign with assistance from local units chartered in their area. This was done primarily because local councils were the entity that directly supported local units. That has not changed, however, the manner by which people support not for profit programs has changed – dramatically. We are living in a society that embraces the notion of paying your way as you go, which, in turn, does not create the same sense of philanthropy experienced in the past. This Council Executive Board action was taken to ensure the continuation of the local Council, and the numerous scouting programs that the Hudson Valley Council supports in our local communities.

Since the inception of the Boy Scouts of America, local units have been setting their own membership fees, to balance their unit budgets. The membership fees paid to the local council, from those local units, are passed on to the National Council in their entirety, which, in turn, helps to fund the National Council budget. The local council has always had to find ways to fund its operations & programs (the local council budget) without the benefit of any type of stated fee. Revenue streams are not as robust as they once were, and local councils find themselves in need of a revenue stream that can be identified and quantified on an annual basis. Realizing and acknowledging the need for this new revenue stream caused the Hudson Valley Council Executive Board to gather information, speak to key unit & district leadership, and come to the conclusion that a “fair share” per person operations and service fee should be implemented. The current total cost of keeping an individual in the scouting program for one year in the Hudson Valley Council is \$150. The Hudson Valley Council Executive Board is asking each person that registers to provide \$36 of that cost. The remainder of those costs will be raised through revenue generation such as DCAD Dinners, Sporting Clays, Golf Tournament, etc.

Subsequently, effective the close of business on November 30, 2015, the grand total registration fee for each individual registering in the Hudson Valley Council for a 12 month period will be \$72. For those that register during the interim 12 month period, the registration fee will be prorated at \$6 per month, following the existing format.

Questions and/or comments should be directed to your District Executive or a member of the Executive Staff. Our District Executive's may be reached by telephone @ 845-566-7300, or via their respective emails, as noted on the council web site. Thank you for supporting the scouting programs of the Hudson Valley Council.

Facts regarding the new \$36 per person Operations and Service fee:

1. Lion Cub and Tiger Cub adult partners do not pay the \$36 Operations and Service Fee. The Lion Cub fee remains the same as last year (2014).
2. Registered adult Leaders (in any capacity) pay the \$36 Operations and Service Fee at charter renewal time.
3. The Operations and Service Fee will be pro-rated on a monthly basis – just as the current BSA registration fee is today. In essence, it costs a person \$6 per month to be registered in the Hudson Valley Council scouting program. The grand total for 12 months is \$72 per person. For example: a person decides to register in June in a Rockland Unit that recharter in December – the grand total fee is \$6 x 7 months = \$42. The rate is \$6 per person, per month x June, July, August, Sept., October, November, and December (7 months).
4. The National Council Registration Fee, Insurance Fee, and the Council Operations and Service fee (Grand Total of \$72) will be payable at annual charter renewal time. Those that join during the charter year – please refer to number 3.
5. There will be a scholarship application available to unit leaders, at charter renewal time, on an “as need” basis. The Council Executive Board does not intend to have this become an undue hardship on any specific family, however, that is one of the significant reasons that the fee was set at \$36 vs. a more substantial number. The local Unit Leader will be responsible for submitting those applications, with the appropriate information.
6. Merit Badge Counselors that have no adult registration other than that of a Merit Badge Counselor do not pay the \$72 annual fee. Merit Badge Counselors are approved to teach Merit Badges and interact with youth as they do so, however, Merit Badge Counselors that have no other BSA registration (ie. Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, Unit Committee member, Commissioner, etc.) are not covered by the BSA insurance plan.