



Cradle of Liberty Council Membership Fee Subsidy FAQs

Why did the Cradle of Liberty Council Executive Board vote to provide the subsidy?

Council Leadership and the Executive Board understands and appreciates the challenges the timing and significance of this fee increase presents to our valued unit leaders and families. Since this is a national registration fee as opposed to a local council (Cradle of Liberty Council) fee, the board does not have the authority to waive or postpone the fee to give families time to react and prepare for the increase. Therefore, the board decided to commit significant financial resources to absorb this increase, for this charter renewal period only, and thus provide time for our families to prepare.

What other options did the council consider?

Council Leadership and the Executive Board analyzed several different options to provide relief to our Scouting families. However, no other option completely eliminated the issue of the short notice and having to ask unit leaders to go back to parents this year and collect more money than they had planned. The alternative options also presented substantial administrative issues for our unit leadership.

Where is the money to subsidize the membership fee increase coming from?

The money to cover the national membership fee increase subsidy is coming from the council's *Operating Fund Unrestricted Net Assets*, or Retained Earnings. Put simply, this is the Council's emergency fund, first established in 2010 so that the council would be able to address unforeseen financial challenges and avoid being forced to immediately cut programs or service.

These funds have been saved over a number of years due to the generous support of Scouting families through the annual Friends of Scouting Campaign as well as unit support of the annual popcorn and adventure card sales. This generosity coupled with the good financial stewardship of the Executive Board as allowed the council to invest in capital improvements at our camp properties and save some money in the emergency fund. This subsidy will deplete a significant portion of these funds and it is the sincere hope that Cradle of Liberty units and families will respond to this action by continuing to support these fundraising events in the future, and perhaps give consideration to increasing their support to allow for the rebuilding of this fund for future emergencies.

Are you going to have to increase camp or activity fees this year to replenish the fund?

No. There will be regularly planned inflationary increases in summer camp fees, but these are our normal course of business and not at all driven by this action. The funds committed by the Executive Board are being allocated from a separate account. However, this is a significant financial expenditure and we will need to bring the fund back up to its previous level over the next several years. It is our hope that our Scouting families will respond to this action by contributing to the Friends of Scouting campaign this year and in the future, as well as the various product sales and summer camp experiences. We are also asking that District volunteers welcome members of the Executive Board and Council leadership to their upcoming Roundtables so that we may talk about the subsidy and answer your questions directly.





What happens if the membership fee or the unit charter fee goes up again in 2021?

This is a one-time relief we are providing to Cradle of Liberty Council families. The national fees in 2021 will be the responsibility of the units and families.

What if my unit has enough money to cover the increase now? Is there an “opt-out” option?

For the ease of administration, every registered member (youth and adult) who is renewing his/her registration for 2020 will be subsidized by the Cradle of Liberty Council. If your unit is in a financial position to absorb the new national registration fees this year, or parents wish to pay it, please make a contribution in the amount of the subsidy to the unit's Friends of Scouting campaign.

What if my unit just needs more time to collect the new fees? Can we pay back the subsidy?

Yes. For the ease of administration, every registered member (youth and adult) who is renewing his/her registration for 2020 will be subsidized by the Cradle of Liberty Council. If your unit is in a financial position to absorb the new national registration fees this year, or parents wish to pay it, please make a contribution in the amount of the subsidy to the unit's Friends of Scouting campaign.

How does the subsidy impact online rechartering? Can I still pay online?

DO NOT PAY ONLINE. Since the online registration system is a national system, it will be built with the national fees. Please complete the online process **with the exception of payment**. Please submit payment using the \$33 national registration fee, the \$2 council insurance fee, and the \$40 national unit recharter fee in the form of a check made payable to the Cradle of Liberty Council. A fee worksheet will be provided by November 1, and will also be available at www.colbsa.org/recharter.

What if I have a new Scout or Adult submit an application in 2019, but I don't turn it in until 2020?

This is why it's so important to turn in all paperwork as soon as possible. Any applications that are received by the council office after December 31, 2019 will be charged the full national registration fee for 2020. New members joining after January 1, 2020 will pay the full national registration fee.

What can we do to prepare for the increase in 2021?

Throughout 2020, the Cradle of Liberty Council will offer budgeting and fundraising workshops for both units and families to prepare them to pay the new fees next year. A schedule of workshops will be published shortly. You are also strongly encouraged to invite your District Executive to a unit committee meeting to discuss your unit's specific needs and identify what might be the best fit.

The National Council FAQ references a “local council program fee.” What is that?

Some councils have implemented a fee to youth and adult members above the national registration fee to help offset local council operating expenses. This fee is known as a “local council program fee.” Due to the generosity of our Scouting families through the annual Friends of Scouting, popcorn, and adventure card campaigns, the Cradle of Liberty Council does not charge its members a local council program fee. The Council does charge a \$2 fee to all members to assist with the cost of providing accident and sickness insurance.

