

Pennsylvania Dutch Council Program Fee FAQ

- 1. What is changing?**
 - a. The Pennsylvania Dutch Council Board has approved a program fee that will be due as part of the 2024 recharter.
- 2. How much is the fee?**
 - a. The fee will be \$66.00 per youth (or \$5.50 per month) and \$42.00 per adult.
- 3. Is this in addition to the national registration fee for youth and adults?**
 - a. YES
- 4. Where does my registration fee go and does the Pennsylvania Dutch Council keep any of it?**
 - a. The Pennsylvania Dutch Council does not keep any of your membership registration fee. It is passed directly onto the National BSA. The National registration is used to directly support program development costs, support national high adventure bases, process criminal background checks, and provide your general liability insurance.
- 5. Why has the board adopted this program fee?**
 - a. This program fee will help offset the true cost of Scouting throughout the year. This program fee will spread the true cost of scouting across every member.
- 6. Who initiated this change?**
 - a. A discussion was brought up at the board level and a sub committee was formed to review the strategic plan and financial need for the council. Out of this subcommittee a recommendation was made to the board of directors.
- 7. What does the program fee help pay for?**
 - a. This will help offset rising costs of insurance, maintenance at our two premier camping facilities, recruiting campaigns, council, and district wide activities. It will also cover professional staff and administrative staff who help support most scouting programs. It also helps pay for our service center and scout shop inventory. We are a locally owned scout shop as such we must pay for our inventory before it is sold.
- 8. What if a family has challenges paying for the registration fee and or program fee?***
 - a. The Pennsylvania Dutch Council has never turned a family away from scouting due to financial hardships. We have established an assistance fund to help those in need. This assistance fund is in addition to our campership program which helps our scouts go to our summer camp. Any assistance provided to a family will be in the form of a refund after the unit recharter is complete.
[2024 Program Assistance Fund Application](#)
- 9. Will the program fee be pro-rated for youth who join throughout the year?***
 - a. Beginning August 1, 2023, all new youth and adult members who join Scouting will be enrolled in a 12-month membership cycle and BSA will cease prorating fees. The program fee will be paid at the same time as your membership fees and will cover 12 months.

10. Will Scouts who transfer from Arrow of Light to Scouts BSA be assessed a program fee?

- a. No. Currently when a youth crosses over from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA they do not pay a registration fee, nor do they when a youth transfers between units within a Council. The program fee will operate in the same fashion.

11. Will there still be a Family Friends of Scouting Campaign?

- a. Yes, we will continue to share the positive benefits of Scouting with your families, and a well-run family campaign helps accomplish this.

12. How does the national registration and program fee compare to other organizations?

- a. This was taken into consideration, and through our research many organizations charge between \$300 to \$1000 for activities that may not even be year-round. Scouting provides a year-round program of character, leadership and positive programs for significantly less.

13. What can we do to prepare for the program fee this December?

- a. Participate in the fall product sale. Do you realize that by selling \$180 worth of popcorn or nuts essentially pays for your fee?
- b. Hold a special fundraiser within your unit which will go specifically towards helping offset the cost of the program fee.
 - i. Hold a car wash this summer, have a pie auction, sub sale, beef jerky fundraiser, pancake breakfast to name a few.
- c. Consider starting to collect dues now which is less than \$7.50 per month from April to December

14. What should I do if I have additional questions that have not been answered through the FAQ?

- a. Should you have further questions please contact the council office at 717-394-4063 or e-mail matthew.adams@scouting.org