



July 2, 2020

Dear Scout Families and Unit Leaders,

Delivering unparalleled quality programs to young people requires a great deal of resources. As a member of Scouting, you receive from the California Inland Empire Council tools, resources, personnel, and support services needed to have a program filled with adventure, learning, and leadership development. To continue the tradition of Scouting in the California Inland Empire Council, the volunteer Board of Directors has adopted a registration fee for 2021. Keeping in line with the National implementation of their membership fee, the additional registration fee will take effect August 1, 2020, for new members in the 2020-2021 program year. For renewing members, the new fee will take effect on October 1, 2020. This change is necessary to ensure Scouting programs are delivered in a safe environment and families understand their responsibilities as members in the California Inland Empire Council.

Declining participation in voluntary Family Friends of Scouting donations has placed additional burden on the council making it increasingly difficult to provide the level of support needed to successfully deliver and grow the Scouting program. Decreasing charitable gifts from families and other donors, coupled with increases in employee compensation (California mandatory minimum wage increases, retirement, and medical benefits), and rising insurance and operating costs, has forced the Council to seek alternative funding sources.

Although, last year the National Council gave permission to our Council to implement an additional fee, we did not. This year the National Council has allowed additional fees to be charged to both youth and adult members of local Councils and our Council is implementing a registration fee for youth members and adults.

While this was not an easy decision on our part, it would have been extremely difficult to balance the Council budget in 2021 without collecting a registration fee. Simply put, donations and revenue income have not kept up with the rising costs of operations for the past few years.

Historically, only 13% of Scout families have made a Friends of Scouting gift to support the California Inland Empire Council. Contrary to popular belief, the operation of the Council is not free for our members. Someone is paying for these services. The Council has worked hard over the years to keep activity costs low, but times are changing, and business expenses are rising at an alarmingly fast rate. Those receiving the benefits of Scouting must share in covering the local costs of Scouting.

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We appreciate the concerns of our members and share their frustration that things are getting more expensive – and, while this is true - Scouting remains a bargain. But the true cost of delivering the program to young people and their families is historically and still largely underwritten by others (even with the membership fee increase and new registration fee).

Other than the new registration fee, the largest part of the Council's operating income comes from fundraising and activity revenue. As mentioned before, over the past few years we have experienced a steady decline in Family Friends of Scouting contributions, camp attendance and corporate support has been increasingly difficult for us to secure. While we are enormously proud of our camp facilities, operation costs are escalating; especially in the areas of insurance costs, maintenance and staffing. While the bulk of our business gets done though volunteer efforts, there are still some tasks that must be handled by employees.

Our board is made up of prudent and successful business leaders and most of them have unit leadership experience. The Executive Board of our Council works closely with Council staff to follow best business practices in keeping expenses down and maximizing return on investment. We take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously and follow the Scout Oath and Law in all our dealings.

Our hope and sincere belief would be that parents will see that Scouting is still a tremendous bargain for their family, especially considering the education value and how we support their family values. We are excited that we get to partner with our families and adult leaders in changing people's lives. The care of our members is paramount to our success and through this change, we hope to continue and improve the quality program delivery our members expect.

If you have questions or comments, please contact 045CIEC.Communications@scouting.org.

In the Spirit of Scouting,



Matt Myers
Scout Executive
California Inland Empire Council

FUNDING SCOUTING

CIEC REGISTRATION FEE

\$120 Youth | \$60 Adult

\$10 Youth | \$5 Adult per month paid annually

\$66 Youth | \$42 Adult

- Liability Insurance
- National Organizational Costs (Development & Delivery of BSA Programs)
- Youth Protection Training & Adult Background Screening

Collected by National

\$54 Youth | \$18 Adult

- Local Insurance (Accident, Property, and Other Additional Insurance)
- New Unit Organization & Membership Recruitment
- Operation & Organization Costs (Membership, Advancement, and Training)

Supports Scouting Within the CIEC
(All money stays locally within the CIEC)

FUNDRAISING FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

- Scholarships for Membership
- Scholarships for Summer Camp and Other Outdoor Programs
- Local Development & Delivery of Scouting Programs
- Operation & Organization Costs (Management, Administrative & Program Support, Camp Staff, and Fundraising)
- Utilities, Maintenance, and Improvements for Camp Emerson, Council Office, and Scout Stores



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
CALIFORNIA INLAND EMPIRE COUNCIL



322 Lions



644 Tigers



3,146 Cub Scouts



1,569 Webeles



2,766 Scouts



141 Venturers



423 Achieved Rank of Eagle



By the numbers in **2019**:

Total Merit Badges Awarded **14,721**

67,915 Total Eagle Service Hours

FAQ

Q: Why did the Council not inform units earlier about the new Registration Fee?

A: Prior to 2020, the National Council prohibited local Councils from attaching additional fees to membership fees. We did not implement additional fees other than insurance in 2020. Due to declining participation in charitable donations the Executive Board (all volunteers) of the California Inland Empire Council recently voted to implement the new Registration Fee.

Q: Is the California Inland Empire Council the only Council to implement an additional fee?

A: The California Inland Empire Council was given permission by National to implement the program fee on January 1, 2020 in order to meet the rising labor costs as mandated by the State of California minimum wage increases. The California Inland Empire Council now joins with the Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Orange County Council, and the Western Los Angeles Councils who implemented their fees in 2019.

Q: Will units be given more time to process complete the recharter process?

A: We understand that units may need more time to collect the additional fees. All charters expire on December 31, 2020. Our commissioner and council staff stand ready to help process your charter before your charter expires.

Q: Are registration fees and membership fees tax deductible?

A: According to the National Council, these fees are not tax deductible. Please consult with your tax professional for advice.

Q: Will registration fees be collected for new members during 2020?

A: Yes. All new members will be charged the prorated fees for registration, and Boys' Life (if applicable) at the time of registration.

Q: Are registration fees refundable?

A: No. All fees are nonrefundable per National Council policy.

Q: The National announcement says that they are establishing a scholarship for members unable to afford membership. How does a family apply?

A: Details have not been shared with the local council yet. The California Inland Empire Council does have a small donor funded account to help families needing support. Please contact your District Executive for assistance.

Q: Will registration fees eliminate Friends of Scouting donations?

A: No. In fact, the California Inland Empire Council will still need families to make charitable contributions to help offset operating costs. FOS donations will be used to provide outreach to more youth, help grow our premier camp properties, provide camperships and scholarships, and help expand the mission of the Boy Scouts of America in our local communities. The new registration fee only covers a portion of the overall Council budget.

Q: What has the council done to reduce operating expenses?

A: The Council budget for 2020 was approved by the volunteer driven Council Executive Board. Built into the 2020 budget are staff reductions and other cuts to expenses. New events and programs are being designed to help generate new revenue, but overall, income is still budgeted to decline in 2020.

How to collect Registration Fees

Units are welcome to collect both recharter fees from members and submit payment to the Council office. Some units may wish to use their popcorn proceeds or unit treasury to help ease the burden on families.

2021 Registration Fees

National BSA Membership Fee		Insurance Fee		CIEC Registration Fee		Paid Annually
Youth \$66	+	\$12	+	\$42	=	\$120
Adult \$42	+	\$12	+	\$6	=	\$60

Pro-rated Fees for New members during the year:

Youth \$10/month with *Boys' Life* magazine \$11/month

Adult \$5/month with *Boys' Life* magazine \$6/month