



TO: Unit, District, and Council Leadership

FROM: Timothy J. Hogan, Council President
Brian J. Valentino, Council Commissioner
Michael P. Mahon, Scout Executive

RE: Monmouth Council-Local Council Service Fee

In 2018, a Monmouth Council volunteer committee was formed to study council funding and if the annual **Family** "Friends of Scouting" (FOS) campaign is meeting its objectives of funding the Monmouth Council. The study was presented at the Council's February 2019 Executive Board meeting. Acting upon the recommendation of the study group the board voted to initiate a \$52 per youth Council service fee, to support the operations of the Monmouth Council, BSA.

This Fee will replace the annual **Family** FOS campaign at the unit level. The fee is capped at a maximum of two (2) youth per household. The Board also decided that they will not consider any increase in this fee for five (5) years. In addition, an assistance program has been established and any family unable to pay the Service Fee may apply for consideration.

The Council Service Fee is in response to our recent research and conversations with Scouting families like yours relative to the ever-increasing cost of running our Council, camps and programs and the concept of everyone paying their "fair share" of those costs at the local council level of the Scouting organization.

From Scouting's inception, local councils such as ours have raised their own funds and sustained themselves by orchestrating annual **Family** Friends of Scouting campaigns with assistance from local units chartered in their area. However, the manner by which people support Not-for-Profit programs has changed — dramatically. Simply put, we can no longer rely on the legacy **Family** FOS Campaign to meet our financial obligations. Realization and acknowledgment of the need for an identifiable and quantifiable source of income caused the Monmouth Council Executive Board to gather information, speak to key unit and district leadership, and conclude that the service fee should be implemented.





Since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, local units have been setting their own membership fees, to balance their unit budgets. Membership fees paid by units to the local council help to fund the National Council budget and are passed on to the National Council in their entirety. The local council has always been responsible for funding its operations and programs (the local council budget), without the benefit of any type of stated fee. This Council Executive Board initiative is to ensure the continuation of the local Council, and the numerous Scouting programs that the Monmouth Council supports in our local communities.

The Monmouth Council Executive Board is requiring each Scouting family to contribute to the cost of sustaining the Council. The remainder of those costs will be generated through fundraising events, such as the Joshua Huddy Gala Dinner, Sporting Clays and Golf Tournaments, Good Scout Receptions, and others fundraising sources.

This Local Council Service Fee will be collected on an annual basis during the fall re-chartering cycle and will not be prorated during the Scouting year.

Without the Local Council Fee, it would become necessary to charge a fee for many of the following services, currently provided free of charge, such as:

- Training workshops
- Council's Annual Program Launch
- Membership Flyers, recruiting tools and yard signs
- Day Hikes at Council-owned properties
- Recognition Certificates
- E-News
- New Council app for camps, districts, and units
- Council Website /Online event registration
- Professional support of units and unit volunteers

We can assure you that this decision was not made without a great deal of thought and consideration.

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Questions and/or comments should be directed to your District Chair, District Executive, District Commissioner, or a member of the Executive Staff. Our District Executives may be reached by telephone at 732 536-2347, or via their respective emails, as noted on the council web site (www.monmouthbsa.org). Thank you for supporting the Monmouth Council scouting programs.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Timothy J. Hogan in blue ink.

Timothy J. Hogan
President

Handwritten signature of Brian J. Valentino in blue ink.

Brian J. Valentino
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Michael P. Mahon in blue ink.

Michael P. Mahon
Scout Executive/ CEO

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