



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
GOLDEN GATE AREA COUNCIL

# GOLDEN GATE AREA COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE

Effective August 1, 2020



## THE VALUE OF SCOUTING

**Families today have many options, but only Scouting provides a safe and fun atmosphere where a kid can be a kid all while preparing them to become an even better adult.**

As we look towards the future of Scouting, the Golden Gate Area Council is committed to providing a safe and cost-effective Scouting experience.

Our new fee structure is being implemented out of necessity to support critical safety components of our organization like youth protection resources, criminal background checks, technology upgrades and insurance coverage rates which have risen substantially over the past few years.

## ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE STRUCTURE

### National New Member Fee - \$25 (Youth)

This is a one-time fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts. There is no joining fee for Exploring participants, participants previously registered in any BSA program, those transferring from one program to another, council-paid memberships, or adult volunteers.

### National Membership Fee - \$66 (Youth) / \$42 (Adult)

This fee helps to pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, national liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources. National BSA will also continue to develop and improve online registration, Scoutbook, and national initiatives.

### Council Program Fee - \$66 (Youth) / \$42 (Adult)

The Council Program Fee (CPF) covers the basic services that a unit receives from the council, (see "How We Invest in Youth" graph). The vast majority of the fee – 85% will support program and activities. It is a cornerstone that allows the council to build on those services with additional income from fundraising streams, activity fees, popcorn sales, and endowment revenue.

# WHY IS THERE A CPF?

While costs to the Scouting program have increased from year to year, Friends of Scouting and other donations have not kept pace with inflation. This budget gap has led to ongoing subsidization of core costs, including local council insurance necessary for all Scouting activities. Similarly, professional staff cuts occurred and council level services have been reduced. You may recall that the annual membership fees charged by the National Council remain with the National Council and are not returned to the local council. With the recent council merger, we knew that these issues were going to need to be discussed in the new council.

The shelter in place mandate has not only put a strain on our Scouting families and our communities, it has accelerated. It has also accelerated the need for the discussion regarding the merged council's revenue streams, thus the new Council Executive Board has taken action accordingly. As a result of the restrictions, the vast majority of our council's 2020 activity revenue has been eliminated. Our district leadership rightfully asked for a postponement to our usual FOS efforts. Council leadership has had to reassess how we fund our program needs in order to support our districts and units. We aspire to be a sustainable and enduring council for generations to come.

GGAC couldn't anticipate that the lasting effects of COVID-19 would result in the mandatory closure of all of our summer camps in 2020. Resident camps are the main income stream for the council. The loss of these camping opportunities comes as a blow to not only our Scouts, but also to the council budget.

It has become clear that a family entering into Scouting today has different expectations; most would rather pay an up front cost of engagement instead of being solicited for donations. Units may choose to subsidize the annual fee through additional fundraising. There will be an online application available at [ggacbsa.org](http://ggacbsa.org) for unit leaders to apply for financial assistance for those Scouts who demonstrate a need.

## ADVANTAGES OF THE CPF

- Shifts council fundraising efforts and resources from being family focused to being community focused
- Less necessity for camping & activity fees as a % of budget
- Consistency of overall funding to ensure sustainability of program & district staffing
- All families participate in funding a small part of local program support.

# WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

- Allows the council to **maintain camping and activity fees** at the lowest possible level for Scouts and their families.
- **Increases stability in family giving** and allows the council to **collect a single registration fee** at a unit's annual rechartering.
- **Improves field staff contact with units and districts** by increasing their availability to provide direct support to units and districts.
- **Provides supplemental medical and accident insurance coverage** as well as **local liability insurance** for all registered members.
- **Let us be clear**, the Council Program Fee provides the means to ensure that **no Scout will be left behind** from Scouting in the GGAC due to financial constraints.

## GGAC FUNDING

The CPF is just one part of GGAC funding, supplying just 15% of the budget. Other sources cover 85%.

### How We Invest in Youth

#### 85% Programs and Activities

Camping & Activity Supplies / Equipment  
Service Centers and Camps / Insurance  
Professional Staff / Support Staff, Assistance  
& Campership Funding / Program Resources  
(training, recognition, website, etc.)

#### 9% Fundraising Expenses

#### 6% Administration

National Charter / Service Fees  
State & Local Fees / Banking & Accounting Fees

### Current Funding Sources

#### 48% Camping & Activity Fees

#### 13% Family Fundraising

#### 12% Special Events

#### 9% Board & Community Fundraising

#### 6% Investments

#### 5% Popcorn Sales

#### 7% Other Funding

(Scout Shop, Foundations, etc)

### Projected Funding Sources w/Council Program Fee

#### 42% Camping & Activity Fees

#### 15% Council Program Fee

#### 13% All Fundraising

#### 12% Special Events

#### 6% Investments

#### 5% Popcorn Sales

#### 7% Other Funding

(Scout Shop, Foundations, etc)



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[ggacbsa.org](http://ggacbsa.org) | 925-674-6100

800 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523