

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE OPTION

Frequently Asked Questions – Parent Edition (Updated 3/29/2021)

Q: What options does my family have to pay for enrollment in Scouting?

A: When you're enrolling in Scouting for the first time, there are three major ways in which you can pay for your enrollment in the program:

1. **Upfront Payment:** Our traditional payment model has had families pay all fees up-front through a set calendar date. This fall, we would collect all fees needed to enroll your Scout between the time of registration and December 31. Additional fees would be collected during the month of November to cover the next calendar year costs.
2. **Membership Subscription:** Our Membership Subscription model allows families to spread the costs of Scouting throughout the year. Payments for all subscriptions would be processed around the 15th of each month of enrollment and can be stopped at any time with a 30-day notice.
3. **WellCare of Nebraska Benefits:** For families receiving benefits from WellCare of Nebraska, enrollment in Scouting may be free-of-charge as part of your benefits. Your Unit Leader or District Unit-Serving Executive should have more information about this benefit and how to apply for coverage of your Scout's enrollment.

Q: What is included in the fees my family will pay?

A: When you enroll your youth in Scouting, the fees will cover:

- National BSA membership fees
- Mid-America Council program support fee
- *Scout Life* monthly magazine subscription
- Scout Handbook (one time upon joining. Future handbooks are not included)
- Unit Dues (If Applicable. Please check with your local unit.)

Q: How does my family enroll in Scouting?

A: For **new** families, your choice for an upfront payment or monthly subscription will take place at the time your Scout enrolls in Scouting. Whether you are filling out a paper "hard-copy" application to join Scouting or completing an application on-line, the process is very simple! To register online or to download a paper copy, go to 'Join Scouting' at www.signup4scouting.org.

For **current** Scouts, enrollment in the Membership Subscription can be completed by visiting: www.scoutingevent.com/326-CurrentScouts. This site will be reset in the fall for the next recharter year. There will be a \$1 charge per family to enroll with the monthly payments starting in December.

Q: If my family is enrolled in the Membership Subscription, how do we submit payment?

A: As part of the Membership Subscription, your family will be required to establish a recurring method of payment to be charged around the 15th of each month. This includes credit cards, debit cards, and checking account auto-withdrawals. **Please Note:** Payment is submitted directly to the Mid-America Council in the Membership Subscription. Fees are not paid to your local Scouting unit.

Q: What payment options may we use?

A: Credit cards, debit cards, and checking account auto-withdrawals are accepted for the Membership Subscription. Cash and checks are also accepted for the Traditional option.

Q: Will the base monthly charge ever change?

A: Each year (in December) the base monthly charge could increase slightly. This would mainly occur if there were a change in the national membership fees. Any changes will always be announced a couple of months ahead of time.

Q: Is there a deadline by which families must enroll in the Membership Subscription?

A: No but families are encouraged to enroll by November to allow the unit to make preparations for recharter.

Q: How does my family “unsubscribe” from Scouting if we’re enrolled in the Membership Subscription option?

A: Your family can unsubscribe by sending an e-mail to mac@scouting.org with the subject line “Unsubscribe from Scouting.” Please be sure to include your name, your Scout’s name, and your unit number to help us find the correct Scout. A 30-day written notice is required to unsubscribe and terminate your monthly payments.

Q: What happens if my family’s payment method becomes invalid (i.e. my debit card is stolen and I get a new card number)?

A: You can update your payment information with the Mid-America Council at any time by contacting us via phone at **(402) 431-9272** or via e-mail at mac@scouting.org.

Should you forget to update your information, the Mid-America Council will send notice of an invalid payment method to the e-mail address on-file for your family and to the Unit Leader within three (3) business days of the failed payment. Your family will have 30 days to provide updated payment information by calling the Mid-America Council at **(402) 431-9272**. After 30 days, your family will be treated as an unsubscribed Scout.

Q: Can my family change from Monthly Subscription to the Upfront Payment?

A: Each year, there will be an enrollment window during which both new and returning families will be able to switch from the Membership Subscription to the Traditional All-In model and vice versa. This window will typically start on October 1st and end two (2) Fridays before Thanksgiving. To switch between payment models, your family will simply need to let your unit know or contact Mid-America Council by e-mailing us at mac@scouting.org.

Q: Can I register as a volunteer Adult Leader and pay my registration fees using the Membership Subscription?

A: At this time, the Mid-America Council is only extending the Membership Subscription to youth members. Adult Leaders will need to pay their fees using the traditional upfront payment.

Q: Is there a discount for multiple registered Scouts in one family?

A: No. The fees for Scouting are structured around individual Scouts.

Q: Does the Mid-America Council offer other forms of financial assistance?

A: The Mid-America Council offers Camperships and membership assistance to help those Scouts that need it. For detailed information, please visit:

www.mac-bsa.org/scouting-tools/financialassistance/

Q: What if I have additional questions about the Membership Subscription or our Scouting membership in general?

A: Please feel free to contact the Mid-America Council via phone at **(402) 431-9272** or via e-mail at mac@scouting.org. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.