

Mid-America Council Membership Options

Frequently Asked Questions – **Leader Edition**

Q: What options do families have to pay for enrollment in Scouting?

A: Families will have two payment options to choose from when enrolling for the first time.

- 1. Annual Membership:** Our annual membership payment option is a one-time payment submitted at the time of sign-up that covers membership fees for the remainder of the calendar year. This fee is prorated based on month joined. Unit dues would be charged by the unit separate from this fee. The following year's recharter fees would be owed in the Fall.
- 2. Membership Subscription:** The membership subscription model allows families to spread out the costs of Scouting throughout the year. A \$42 fee would be charged at sign-up (\$25 new scout fee + \$17 first month fee). Starting the month after sign-up, a \$17 recurring fee would be charged around the 15th of each month. Unit dues can be added to the monthly payment upon request from the unit. The following year's recharter fees would **not** be collected by the unit in November because the family would continue paying monthly.

Q: What is included in the membership fee?

A: Regardless of the method of payment (Annual or Monthly Subscription), youth member fees include the following:

- 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)

Q: How do families enroll in Scouting?

A: For **new** families, the choice of an annual payment or monthly subscription payments will be offered at the time of enrollment. Online registration with both membership options can be completed at www.signup4scouting.org. Paper or digital applications can still be submitted to Council. If no membership option is specified on the hard copy application, we will consider it as the annual method.

Q: Does the unit collect the fees for families participating in the Membership Subscription?

A: No, the unit does not collect fees. The family will set up recurring payments billed through the Mid-America Council.

Q: Can my unit add monthly dues to the amount charged to a family? If so, how do we add this charge and what happens to those funds when they are collected?

A: Yes, your unit can add monthly dues to the base monthly charge. A registered leader in the unit must e-mail the amount to be charged to mac@scouting.org. Once collected, monthly dues will be credited to the Unit Deposit Account (UDA) at the Mid-America Council.

Q: How does my unit access the monthly dues collected in our Unit Deposit Account (UDA)?

A: Your unit can use UDA funds for Scout Shop purchases and event registrations at any MAC Scout Shop location. Funds from the UDA can be deposited to your unit bank account upon request if your unit has a completed [ACH Form](#) on file. All transfer requests must be emailed to mac@scouting.org with 24-48 hours' notice. *ACH transfers and UDA fund usage can only be approved by a trusted person named on the UDA*

Q: Will the base monthly subscription 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 ahead of time.

Q: Is the Membership Subscription available for adult members?

A: No. Currently, the membership subscription plan is only available to youth members.

Q: How will participants on the Membership Subscription plan be tracked? How will this roster be communicated to my unit to calculate our final payment for charter renewal?

A: MAC will maintain a record of families enrolled in the membership subscription plan. A roster of these families will be sent to the unit leader and Committee Chair in October to allow time for units to prepare their final payment for recharter. Update emails will be sent as needed if there are changes. Your unit may request a subscription roster at any time by contacting mac@scouting.org.

Q: If a family's payment method becomes invalid, will our unit be notified? Is the unit responsible for correcting the family's payment information?

A: The unit is not responsible for failed payments, but units will be notified if there are 2 or more missed payments. MAC will send email notice of the first invalid payment to the parent/guardian. If payment has not been received by the following billing cycle, the parent/guardian and unit leader will be notified by email of a 2nd failed payment. If payment has not been received by the 3rd missed billing cycle, the scout will be suspended from the unit roster. The parent/guardian, unit leader, and District Executive will be notified by email that the Scout has been suspended and is unable to participate in Scouting activities.

Q: How does a suspended scout become active again?

A: Once repayment is received, the Scout will be unsuspended and added back to your roster within 5 business days. No application will be required if it's within the same calendar year. If a suspended scout is not renewed, their membership will expire at the end of the year.

Q: If a family decides to end their scouting journey, how do they cancel their monthly payment?

A: The family or unit leader must send a cancelation e-mail to mac@scouting.org with 30-days' notice. Their payment will be terminated 30 days after the cancelation email is received.

Q: If a family cancels their monthly payment, will our unit receive notice? Will the Scout stay on our roster?

A: MAC will send an email notice to the unit leader if a Scout cancels their monthly payment. This Scout will remain on the unit roster until their membership expire date.

Q: Who will my unit submit fees for during the Charter Renewal process?

A: Your unit will be responsible for submitting the membership fees for all non-subscription youth members and all adults, as well as the Unit Liability Insurance Fee. The unit will not submit fees for membership subscription Scouts.

Q: Can Scouts switch from Monthly Subscription to an Annual Payment?

A: Each year, there will be an enrollment window during which renewing Scouts will be able to switch their payment preference. This window will typically start on October 1st and end December 31st and coincide with yearly recharter.

- **Switching from Subscription to Annual:** family or unit must send an email notice to mac@scouting.org in the fall to let us know which subscription scout will be paying in full for the following year. They will still be charged monthly through the end of the calendar year.
- **Switching from Annual to Subscription payments:** register at www.scoutingevent.com/326-CurrentScouts. This site will be live starting October 1st.

Q: What if I have additional questions about the Membership Subscription?

A: Please contact the Mid-America Council. Call/text (402) 431-9272 or mac@scouting.org.