

Mid-America Council Membership Options

Frequently Asked Questions – Parent Edition

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

A: When enrolling in Scouting for the first time, there are two payment options to choose from:

1. **Annual Membership:** Our annual membership payment option is a one-time payment submitted at sign-up that covers membership fees for the remainder of the calendar year. This fee is pro-rated based on the month you join. Additional fees can be collected by the unit for dues. In the fall, units will collect fees for the following year, called recharter fees.
2. **Membership Subscription:** Our membership subscription model allows families to spread out the costs of Scouting throughout the year. A \$42 fee would be collected at sign-up, then starting the following month, a \$17 fee would be charged around the 15th of each month. Unit dues could be added to your monthly payment if your unit has elected to do so. The following calendar year's fees (recharter fees) would **not** be collected by the unit. Instead, you would continue paying your monthly fee.

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

A: When youth enroll 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.)

Q: How does my family enroll in Scouting?

A: For **new** families, your choice for an annual payment or monthly subscription payment will be offered at the time of enrollment. To register online, visit www.signup4scouting.org.

For a digital “hard copy” application visit <https://www.scouting.org/resources/forms/>

(Paper copies are available at all MAC office/scout shop locations)

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

A: When payment is submitted at the time of sign-up, the card or bank account given is saved to create an auto-withdrawal recurring monthly payment. **Please Note:** Payment is submitted directly to the Mid-America Council, not your local Scouting unit.

Q: Will the monthly subscription charge ever change?

A: The base monthly charge could increase slightly each year if there is a change in the National membership fees. Unit dues are also subject to change at the discretion of your unit. Changes in the base fee will be communicated ahead of time by Council. It is the unit's responsibility to communicate any changes to dues.

Q: What happens if my family's payment method becomes invalid or I have a failed payment?

A: You can update your payment information with the Mid-America Council at any time by contacting us via call/text at **(402) 431-9272** or e-mail to mac@scouting.org. Should you forget to update your information, the Mid-America Council will send email notice of an 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 is not received by the 3rd missed billing cycle, your Scout's membership will be suspended. Suspended youth are unable to participate in any Scouting activities.

Q: If my Scout is suspended, how do they become active again?

A: When repayment is submitted to the Mid-America Council for missed monthly fees, your Scout will be unsuspended within 5 business days.

Q: Can my family 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 from subscription to an annual payment and vice versa. This window will typically start on October 1st and end December 31st.

- **Switching from Subscription to Annual:** send an email notice to mac@scouting.org in the fall to let us know you will be paying in full for the following year. You 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: If my family decides to end our Scouting journey, how do we cancel our monthly payment?

A: A cancellation email must be sent to mac@scouting.org with 30-days' notice. Your payment will be terminated 30 days after the cancellation email is received.

Q: Can Adults pay their registration fees using the Membership Subscription payment plan?

A: No. Currently, the Mid-America Council is only offering membership subscription to youth. Adult Leaders will need to pay their fees using the annual payment method.

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 membership assistance and Camperships to help 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 call/text at **(402) 431-9272** or email mac@scouting.org. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.