



HARFORD DISTRICT NEWS

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All Harford District Unit Leaders:




I hope everyone has been enjoying the beginning of fall. I would appreciate it if you would take a couple of minutes and please read these important announcements regarding our Scouting programs in Harford County.

If you have any questions with any of the content within this issue, please feel free to contact Harford District’s key 3 leadership team.

Thank you for your continued support of our youth and Scouting programs in Harford county.

Jim

Jim Grant
 Harford District Chair
jawigrant@gmail.com
 BSA Troop 973

<p>Jim Grant Harford District Chair jawigrant@gmail.com</p>	<p>Peter Quackenbush Harford District Commissioner pqscout19@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Alex Paddack District Executive apaddack@baltimorebsa.org</p>
		



Adult Leader Mandatory Criminal Background Checks/Rechecks.

Re: Mandatory Criminal Background Checks

All Unit Leaders;

Some of you may have already received the e-mail pertaining to BSA's new policy regarding rechecks for criminal background checks.

As Scouters, our work impacts the lives of young people. Leading is not always easy, but it is important. The Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America commits to be transparent and open regarding communication from National BSA to assist you. We also ask you to continue to stand by the BSA and advocate for Scouting.

Families today have many options, but we are confident there is no other program providing the leadership training and character development Scouting provides. Keeping safety of our youth at the forefront of all we do, we felt it important to share with you the following information.

One of the Boy Scouts of America's many Barriers to Abuse is a mandatory criminal background check during the volunteer application process.

The BSA will now also perform periodic rechecks of criminal backgrounds to support the continued safety of youth in our programs. The first periodic recheck will take place in January 2020.

All currently registered adults should be receiving an email this week from the National Council with three separate background check disclosures and authorization form documents. Those documents are: (1) the Background Check Disclosure; (2) the Maryland State Law Disclosures (Non-Credit); and (3) the Additional Disclosures & Background Check Authorization. A copy of the three documents and additional information can be found as individual links [here](#).

All volunteer leaders will need to sign a background check authorization form and return these forms to the Council Service Center before your charter renewal. Authorization is a state requirement, and volunteers without a form will not be able to be a registered leader.

The Baltimore Area Council will make these forms available at roundtables, the council service center, and with District Executives for those who do not receive the email. Remember, a new, signed authorization form is required before annual registration will be processed.

Please see the following link for more information and a frequently asked question guide.

[Registered Adult Background Check Information](#)

If you have any questions or issues, please feel free to reach out to Harford District's key 3 leadership team.



Harford District's Roundtable - Change of Location

All Unit Leaders:

Harford District's Roundtable has a new home!

Beginning with the November 2019 Roundtable (November 11th, 2019) Harford District Roundtable will be held at:

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1515 Emmorton Road
Bel Air MD 21014

For directions, see the following link [here](#).

Please spread the word of our new location and we hope to see you at roundtable.



2020 Membership Fee Changes

Re: 2020 membership Fee Change

Harford District's Key 3 and Baltimore Area Council is closely monitoring the 2020 membership fee change and will post an update as soon as we are aware of the revised membership fee amounts. We hope to provide the new registration fee sometime between October 23-26, 2019, which would take effect on January 1, 2020.

National BSA Letter:

As we evaluate the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program, a vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is considering the best way forward that will likely require us to implement a national membership fee increase for youth members and adult leaders as of January 1, 2020. This prospective change is being driven by the significant cost increase of the liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities.

We do not know the amount of the increase at this time since this requires National Executive Committee input and approval.

Please know that we are only considering this change out of necessity, and we are committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. That is why, in anticipation of a likely increase, we are working to establish a donor-funded BSA Registration Assistance Fund to provide financial support to those who need it. This fund will be in addition to the many existing council and unit membership assistance funds.

We recognize the timing of this likely fee increase creates challenges as units have already begun collecting fees for their 2020 registration renewal process. We sincerely apologize and hope you understand that we would not be pursuing this path were it not absolutely necessary to ensure the BSA can continue carrying out its mission to serve youth. We are committed to supporting you through this process and are making necessary adjustments to the online rechartering system to ensure units can carry out the normal yearly process with as few issues as possible.

We recognize this is neither easy information to hear, nor to convey, but we want to be transparent as we have information to share so you can prepare your units appropriately. We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019, which would take effect on January 1, 2020. The rechartering system will still open on October 1st to allow units to do their roster work.

A brief FAQ is below, and additional information will be available as details are confirmed.

FAQ: 2020 Membership Fee Changes?

Who is guiding the process regarding membership fee changes?

A vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is identifying viable options and considering the best way forward as we evaluate the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program.



What do you expect the new fee to be in 2020?

We do not know the amount of the expected increase at this time since this requires National Executive Committee input and approval.

Why is this happening now?

The expected membership fee increase is the direct result of a significant increase in the cost of liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities.

How will this impact the current rechartering process?

The online rechartering process will officially open as planned on October 1, 2019 for our December recharterers. The process will go forth as usual with the exception of the "calculate fees" portion, which won't be functional until November 1st.

What should units do if they have already collected 2020 membership fees?

Unfortunately, units will need to collect the additional funds from families once the new amount is known.

When will the organization make a decision about the 2020 membership fee increase?

We hope to provide the new registration fee on or around October 23, 2019.