



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
HEART OF VIRGINIA COUNCIL

Dear Heart of Virginia Council Leaders and Parents:

Your dedication and enthusiasm for the mission of Scouting has allowed the Heart of Virginia Council (HOVC) to successfully navigate several unforeseen and very difficult challenges over the past several years. Thank you for sticking with us and allowing our Council to adapt, grow, and continue to positively influence the young women and men of our future.

This communication is to inform you of a change in our fee structure going forward. While the HOVC has kept its fees flat for the past decade, the board has decided that fee increases will be needed in 2024 to keep up with inflation. Details on these fee increases, as well as a list of FAQs are below, to help explain the need for this increase.

Beginning January 1, 2024, the program/insurance recovery fee will increase from \$10 for youth and \$10 for adults to \$30 for youth and \$15 for adults. Please keep in mind that the National Boy Scouts of America registration fee (currently \$75 for youth and \$45 for adults) for each Scout and Adult goes to the National Boy Scouts of America Organization for their operations.

We are committed to ensuring that our local Packs, Troops, Crews and Post in Central Virginia have the finest resources that will allow us to grow our membership, organize more Scouting units in neighborhoods, and retain our Scouts, as we reach more youth with the positive impact of the BSA mission.

Chip Phillips
Board Chair

Charlotte Pemberton
Council Commissioner

George McGovern
Scout Executive/CEO

FAQ Sheet

Q. Why is the HOVC increasing the fees?

A. The current fee has been in place since 2020 . However, in addition to recent inflation, we are facing these circumstances:

- The cost of program support is increasing while sources of funding for the programming continue to be challenged.
- Our membership decreased coming out of the pandemic but is growing again; however, we are not at pre-pandemic membership numbers. The sources and composition of funding are changing because a number of revenue sources for the council come from membership-driven areas like participation in programs and activities, family Friends of Scouting campaigns, and spring and fall product sales. This trend occurred in almost every council in the country. An example of this is that 58% of our units participate in the council-supported product sales where part of those funds supports the units as well as the council operations.
- Increased maintenance, insurance, and utility costs at the HOVC Scout Reservation have increased.

Q. How will this fee increase benefit the units?

A. The fee increases will fund the following:

- Free Adult Training for the following courses: ILOS, BALOO, Basic Leader Trainings.
- There will no longer be a \$25 fee for trash disposal at camp for units at Cub Adventure Camp and Camp T Brady Saunders (the HOVC Scout Reservation Camp in Goochland).
- We will continue to provide free Eagle Scout kits to any Scout earning their Eagle Rank.
- We will continue to provide free Leader Recognition knots and awards for registered leaders.
- All District Pinewood Derby events will be free.
- To help increase participation, we will provide \$1,000 towards District Camporees to reduce the cost to Scouts and Leaders.
- We will increase our budgets for Assistance to families who need financial support for registration and camp scholarships.

Q. What has happened to the funds from the sale of Albright?

A. Camp Albright was sold to assist in paying for the BSA bankruptcy. The remainder of those funds are as follows: In February 2023, the council moved \$350,000 into a board restricted endowment for maintenance of our camp properties to better take care of that in the future. There is a balance of over \$600,000 in the bank to be used at the HOVC Scout Reservation and the Albright Heritage Project at camp. The additional funds from the sale will not be used for the annual operation of the council.

Q. What is the insurance cost to the council that has increased?

A. The council carries many different kinds of insurance and also pays a national registration fee that helps support the National BSA which includes supporting the general liability insurance premium cost. Insurance we must have include: property insurance, director and operators board insurance, accident insurance for registered Scouts and Leaders, workman's comp insurance, and vehicle insurance. All have increased significantly over the past couple of years.

Q. What kind of investment has the council made at the HOVC Scout Reservation in Goochland?

A. Since 2020, the executive board has authorized spending almost \$500,000 on improving the camp. This included repainting and refurbishing all Cub Adventure Camp buildings and program areas, bringing the Lake Dillon Dam up to state standards, infrastructure and safety improvements, new roofs for the cabins in Sleepy Hollow, air conditioning for staff cabins, and tent and platform replacements, among several other improvements.

Q. What else has the council done to reduce costs?

A. The council has taken steps to reduce expenses in the budget. These areas include more electronic communications and less mailers, upgrading electrical lighting and HVAC systems as they fail to become more efficient. We have also reduced fundraising expenses and some management positions.

Q. What other financial impacts does the council have now and in the future?

A. The Council Property Committee has determined that there is over \$1,000,000 in maintenance repairs and capital needs at the HOVC Scout Reservation in Goochland that need to be completed over the next 7 years. A \$350,000 maintenance endowment fund was established (with the intent to grow that fund) and make annual improvements to ensure that the camp continues to be a great location for our units, Scouts, parents and leaders to use.

Q. Are other Councils charging program fees?

A. Yes, the program fees vary by Council based on their budget needs. The fees for Council's in Virginia range from \$10 (which is currently the Heart of Virginia Council) to up to \$80.