Simon Kenton Council volunteers, leaders and parents:

Last September, the Executive Board of the Simon Kenton Council approved the addition of an annual Council Insurance Fee of $12 per youth member, which will become effective with registration fees beginning January 1, 2020.

As insurance costs have drastically increased over the past several years for many individuals, businesses and organizations, our council’s Executive Board leaders have been looking closely at how those costs affect Simon Kenton Council.

Since 2015, our council has seen an increase by 26% in insurance costs - including the Boy Scouts of America National Council’s General Liability Insurance Program (GLIP). In 2018, SKC insurance expenses will be more than $165,000 with more increases very likely on the horizon. Insurance cost categories from highest to lowest include GLIP, Property (four camps, two satellite offices and the Leadership Development Center), Unit Accident and Sickness, Auto (council-owned vehicles), and Directors and Officers.

This fee will be pro-rated and stays within the Simon Kenton Council. Given that the Boy Scouts of America registration fee of $33 per year is a “pass-through” fee that goes directly and entirely to the National organization, this new fee will make the necessary impact on the council’s budget as we continue to incur rising insurance costs.

In considering this action, the Board did not want this fee to prevent or prohibit families from joining or remaining in Scouting. However, the simple economics of this challenge of increasing costs made this decision a necessary one. Scouting remains an extremely cost-effective investment even with the addition of this fee. Compared to youth sports costs, music programs and other organizations for kids – you’ll be hard-pressed to find a better value for your money.

We realize that there may be additional questions about this new fee. Please see page 2 additional information and be in touch if I can help to answer your questions.
Frequently Asked Questions – Council Insurance Fee

Q: Why is the Council charging an insurance fee?
A: Insurance costs have increased significantly across the Boy Scouts of America and in general over the past several years. The National organization has passed on dramatic increases in the General Insurance Liability Program (GLIP) costs to local councils for several years. Since 2015, the council’s insurance costs have increased by 26.5%. In 2018, the Simon Kenton Council will spend over $165,000 on insurance costs, including GLIP, Unit Accident and Sickness, Directors and Officers, Property and Auto.

Q: When does this fee become effective?
A: The Executive Board wanted to give units sufficient time to plan and budget for this additional expense. As such, the fee is effective for all new and renewing youth registrations beginning January 1, 2020. This includes all youth fees on charter renewals that take effect with units expiring on 12/31/2019.

Q: Do both adults and youth members have to pay this additional $12 fee?
A: No. This fee is charged to youth members only. A youth member is any registrant paying in a youth member role, and not in an adult leader capacity. This is self-explanatory for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts). For Venturers and Sea Scouts, youth members who are between the ages of 18 and 21 will pay the insurance fee if registering in a youth member position. Adults and participants in Learning for Life/Exploring are not subject to this fee.

Q: What if a new Scout joins at some other time than January?
A: Just as the BSA membership fees are prorated each month, this fee is as well. The youth member pays $1 per month.

Q: How will this fee affect families who are unable to pay the registration fee?
A: Families requesting assistance with membership fees will be exempt from this insurance fee.

Q: We already pay $33 a year to participate in Scouting. What are you doing with these fees?
A: Every cent of the $33 per youth and adult registration fee goes directly to the National BSA. The Simon Kenton Council keeps none of these fees. In fact, in addition to sending 100% of registration fees to BSA headquarters, the council pays an additional $81,488 to the National organization for technology, programmatic and general support and assistance each year. The Insurance Fee allows the council to help fund the costs of insurance to provide and support the delivery of the Scouting program in the Council.

Q: What happens if BSA National raises registration fees?
A: Simon Kenton Council is not aware of any planned increases to the BSA registration fee. If the BSA registration fee were to increase, this $12 fee will be in addition to whatever the current registration fee is at the time. The last BSA registration fee increase was effective on December 1, 2017, and went from $24 to $33. Many were not happy with the timing of this change, as unit budgets were already set and fees had been collected. Simon Kenton Council’s Executive Board wanted to share the news of this new fee well in advance of implementation in order for Scouting units to be able to plan and budget for this increase.