

Commissioner Newsletter

November 2009

Membership Fees Increase

The BSA Executive Board unanimously passed a resolution at the business meeting on May 22 to increase the traditional membership registration fee for all youth and adults to \$15 from its current \$10, effective January 1, 2010. The last fee increase, which was from \$7 to \$10, was in 2003. The Exploring fee remains \$10.

Consideration was given to the impact to program and council support, the necessary funding required over the next several years, the cost of implementing fee increases annually in systems and forms, as well as the overall fees paid by councils. Input was sought and received from staff and volunteers at the council level. Finally, given all these considerations, it was determined that the best approach was to increase the fee to the level chosen and make every effort to hold that level for a period of at least three years.

Council will Pilot Required Training for Leaders Working With Youth

The National Council of the BSA will require, as a condition for Unit Charter renewal, that all adult leaders who have direct contact with youth, be fully trained. The Connecticut Rivers Council is one of twenty Councils nationwide selected to pilot the required training initiative, one year before the nationwide roll-out. The pilot will begin January 1, 2010, and will require all Top Unit Leaders to be fully trained when their unit recharter in December, 2010. Top Leaders are Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Venturing Crew Advisors, Varsity Team Coaches, and Sea Scout Skippers.

The pilot will continue through 2011, when all Direct Contact Leaders will be required to complete Basic Leader Training in time for December rechartering. Direct Contact Leaders include Top Leaders, as well as anyone that has direct contact with youth members and include Assistant Scoutmasters, Assistant Cubmasters, Tiger Cub Den Leaders and their assistants, Cub Scout Den Leaders and their assistants, Webelos Den Leaders and their assistants, Associate Crew Advisors, Assistant Varsity Team Coaches, and Sea Scouting Mates. Recognizing the profound impact of required training on units and their Chartered Organizations, the Executive Board passed a resolution in support of the required training initiative. Required training consists of the Basic Leader Training course(s) specific to the registered leadership position, as well as the supporting on-line courses, Fast Start, Youth Protection, and This is Scouting. Note that This is Scouting (WA01) replaces New Leader Essentials (A01). Those leaders who completed NLE prior to July, 2009, are not required to take This is Scouting to complete the training requirement. are delivered at the District-level by District Training Teams. To ensure that every direct-contact leader is able to complete required training in a timely manner, the Council Training Committee will provide a coordinated schedule of required Basic Leader Training Courses to be offered at least twice yearly in each District during 2010 and 2011. Cub Scout Leader Specific Training is also offered at the Pow Wow and at the University of Scouting. Scoutmasters and their assistants can complete both of the required Basic Leader Training courses, Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, as part of the Summer Camp program when they attend a Connecticut Rivers Council Boy Scout camp with their Troop. Please visit the Training page and your District's event calendar on the Council web site (www.ctrivers.org) for specific Training Course information and on-line registration for the courses you need. Learn more about training opportunities by visiting the National Council website (www.scouting.org/) for descriptions of all BSA training programs and a links to the Online Learning Center, where you will be guided in setting up your "My Scouting" account and can take required and supplemental on-line training courses. Contact information for your District Training chair is listed on the Training Page in the Scouter. To prepare for the pilot, the Council Training Committee will be conducting a training inventory of leaders, and will ask your help in verifying and updating records of your training. We will work with the Commissioners to identify units with untrained leaders and expand modes and venues in which training is delivered, to make training available to all. No effort will be spared to ensure that all direct contact leaders have the opportunity to complete required training. It has been the experience of those councils that have already adopted required training that trained leaders provide a higher quality program that results in better retention of Scouts and volunteer leaders and that more effectively deliver the values of Scouting to the youth and families that we serve.

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National Hall of Leadership



Our communities are better places to live, work, and play because of leadership - expressed in extraordinary acts of service – by Scouts, Scouters, and Scouting volunteers over generations.

“We want to gather these powerful stories and share the significant positive impact Scouting leadership has on the quality of life in the communities we serve “ said (INSERT NAME OF SCOUT EXECUTIVE). “That’s why the BSA has created the National Hall of Leadership as part of our 100th Anniversary

Celebration.”

The BSA 100th Anniversary National Hall of Leadership is not a hall or building in the traditional sense, like the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, but its purpose is just as significant. The National Hall of Leadership is an opportunity for anyone to recognize outstanding leadership by a Scout, registered leader or Scouting volunteer who made a significant difference in the life of another by the extraordinary service they have given and the Scouting virtues they have modeled.

To be nominated for the National Hall of Leadership, the nominee must be a living Scout or Scouting volunteer who may/may not be officially registered with the BSA. They also must have served as an active Scout or Scouting volunteer within Scouting for at least one year. A nominee may be young or old-there is no age limit for nominees.

Nominations are submitted online in the form of a story that is 450 words or less, describing why the person is deserving of this onetime honor. The nomination period opens on February 8, 2009, and closes on February 8, 2010, the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. The final inductees to the National Hall of Leadership will total 303-one representing each BSA council and one selected by the National BSA Council-and will be announced at the BSA National Annual Meeting in Dallas in May 2010.

“It truly benefits Scouting in every community when we gather and share these stories of Scouting leadership making uncommon differences through very common acts of service.,” said (INSERT NAME OF SCOUT EXECUTIVE) “This is a great way for Scouts, leaders, alumni, family, friends, and any other person to join-in the BSA 100th Anniversary Celebration.” All of the stories submitted for National Hall of Leadership nominations are retained in an online database, and will be accessible for councils to use as examples of the practical and positive difference Scouting makes in every community. “In addition to honoring the service and leadership of our Scouts and Scouters, the Hall of Leadership will provide our council a valuable online resource of testimonials to share at fundraising, recruiting, public speaking events, and other uses to help attract new volunteers and supporters to keep council programs lively, strong and growing,”said Harry Pokorny, Scout Executive

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Celebrating 100 Years - A Year of Celebration

For 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has created a strong foundation of leadership, service, and community for millions of America's youth. Through A Year of Celebration, A Century of Making a Difference, we will demonstrate the incredible impact of a century of living the Scout Law.

Program participants will earn recognition for making a difference in their communities due to their dedication to five of Scouting's core values: Leadership, Character, Community Service, Achievement, and the Outdoors. Through that commitment, participants can earn each of five award ribbons to display from our 100th Anniversary commemorative patch.

A Year of Celebration will take place from September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. The program is open to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, adult leaders, and Scouting alumni.



Service Projects

Nothing But Nets

500 Nearly 500 million people are infected each year by malaria. 1 More than 1 million of those people end up dying from the disease. 90 Of these deaths, 90 percent occur in Africa, where the disease is a leading killer of children. Even those who survive often are faced with poor physical and mental development. 30 Every 30 seconds – the length of time of a typical TV commercial – a child dies from this disease. That adds up to nearly 3,000 malaria deaths a day. 25 Every day, roughly 25 million pregnant women in Africa are vulnerable to malaria infection. This not only affects their health but also the health of their babies, far too often causing a life to be lost before it even gets started. 12 Malaria places a tremendous strain on the health care system in Africa, and it costs the continent an estimated \$12 billion a year. People miss work because they are sick themselves from malaria or they are taking care of a loved one who is ill. This story, however, doesn't have to end so sadly for so many. The good news in all of this is that malaria is both preventable and treatable. One of the most simple and cost-effective ways to prevent malaria is through the use of insecticide-treated bed nets. For more information contact www.NothingButNets.net. You can access a useful information about Nothing But Nets and the Boy Scout at http://www2.scouting.org/100years/100years/sitefiles/1000/Celebrating100Years/bsa-nothing_but_nets_toolkit.pdf

Cell Phones for Soldiers

Cell Phones for Soldiers hopes to turn old cell phones into more than 12 million minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas in 2008. To do so, Cell Phones for Soldiers expects to collect 50,000 cell phones each month through a network of more than 3,000 collection sites across the country.

The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.



“Americans will replace an estimated 130 million cell phones this year,” says Mike Newman, vice president of ReCellular, “with the majority of phones either discarded or stuffed in a drawer. Most people don't realize that the small sacrifice of donating their unwanted phones can have a tremendous benefit for a worthy cause like Cell Phones for Soldiers.”

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Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist from Norwell, Mass., with \$21 of their own money. Since then, the registered 501c3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$2 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas.

“Cell Phones for Soldiers started as a small way to show our family’s appreciation for the men and women who have sacrificed the day-to-day contact with their own families to serve in the U.S. armed forces,” says the teens’ father, Bob Bergquist. “Over the past few years, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of others. But, we have also seen the need to support our troops continue to grow as more troops are sent overseas for longer assignments.”

Through increased fundraising efforts, the Bergquist family hopes to raise more than \$9 million in the next five years to fund new programs, such as providing video phones with prepaid service to allow soldiers abroad to see their families on a regular basis. For more information Call TOLL FREE: 800-426-1031 Or email cellphonesforsoldiers@reccellular.com To write to Brittany & Robbie: Email kids@cellphonesforsoldiers.com To write to Cell Phones for Soldiers: CellPhones for Soldiers 243 Winter Street Norwell, MA 02061.

Program Information

2009	Cub Scout Theme	Webelos Theme	Boy Scout Theme
October	Jungle Safari	Showman Citizen	Business
November	Cub Scout Salute	Craftsman Scientist	First Aid
December	Works of Art	Craftsman Scientist	Winter Camping
2010	Cub Scout Theme	Webelos Theme	Boy Scout Theme
January	Power up	Fitness Readyman	Citizenship
February	Happy Birthday BSA	Scholar Engineer	Physical Fitness
March	Take Flight	Athlete Engineer	Forestry
April	Spring Into Action	Sportsman Family Member	Leadership
May	In The Spotlight	Outdoorsman Handyman	Special Cooking
June	Hoop-de-Doo	Traveler Artist	Backpacking
July	Celebrate Freedom	Aquonaut Geologist	Aquatics
August	Waves of Fun	Naturalist Forester	Fishing

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Training Opportunities

Pow Pow November 7 2009 East Windsor High School Fee: \$25.00 Includes Coffee and... upon arrival
Choice of 6 classes A Blue & Gold lunch period and a Pow Wow Patch

University of Scouting March 13 2010 Crosby High School Waterbury, CT

Upcoming Events

Mark Twain Leadership Award Reception Thursday, December 3, 2009 Nuchies Restaurant,
Bristol, Connecticut Reception 6:00 p.m. ~ Program 6:45 p.m. Honoring Frank Nicastro, Sr. State
Representative 79th Assembly District

Boy Scout/Webelos First Aid Meet 12/5/2009 9:00:00 AM -1:00:00 PM Emmanuel Lutheran School &
Church: 154 Meadow St, Bristol, CT US

Mark Twain District Annual Meeting 12/1/2009 6:30:00 PM 200 Main St, Bristol, CT US

Klondike Derby 2/6/2010 9:00:00 AM-2/7/2010 More info to follow

District Awards Dinner 3/4/2010 6:00 PM Fellowship begins at 6:00 and dinner follows at 7:00.

Pinewood Derby 3/27/2010 More info to follow.