



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Pine Tree Council  
146 Plains Road  
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[www.pinetreebsa.org](http://www.pinetreebsa.org)

**President**  
Jack O'Toole

August 10, 2023

**Commissioner**  
Michael L'Abbe

Dear Pine Tree Council Members,

**Executive Committee**

Dr. Jeffrey Doss  
Janet Hansen  
Horace Horton  
Marc Libby  
Dr. Drew Fitzgibbon  
Robert Barry  
Bill Thornton  
Dr. Scott Valcourt  
Paul Conley

The Pine Tree Council Board has added an annual council fee of \$80 for Scouts and \$60 for leaders.

The decision to add a council fee to the current national membership fee was made for two major reasons. First, Pine Tree Council raises its annual operating budget each year. That budget primarily comes from fundraising, product sales, and camp revenue. Those sources have not been enough to reliably fund council operations. Second, recent surveys have shown that new Scout parents would prefer to have cost clearly stated and pay rather than fundraise.

**Executive Board**

Jason Beam  
Dr. Don Burgess  
Bill Coffin  
Fredrick Denico  
William Diffenderfer  
Ron Dovich  
Thomas Dunham  
Scott Gabriel  
Roger Griswold  
Darryk Kelly  
Dr. William Kiley  
Chuck Mahaleris  
Paul McKenney  
Jeffrey Messer  
Michael Mirisola  
Karen Norton  
Lynne Picoraro  
Joseph Poulin  
William Sipperly  
Tammy Smith  
Clinton Staples  
Walter Stinson  
Kelly Sturmer  
Lad Taylor  
Jim Thomas  
Pete Ventre  
David Wade  
Brandon Wilkins  
Richard Yerxa

Pine Tree Council is not alone in this decision, about 80% of councils have added annual council fees.

Scouting is an exceptional value for a youth activity. Large scale studies clearly show that Scouting improves children's lives. Scouting helps young people develop into happier, healthier adults who contribute more to their community. Scouting is also less expensive than most youth activities, as you can see from the attached table.

Today many people develop the skills for an indoor suburban environment. Scouting helps young people develop a much broader range of life skills that help them to become functioning adults. The skills, and the comfort in learning new skills, that Scouts develop help them through their lives.

I understand that there are people who will be upset by this new fee. We did not make this decision lightly. We try to avoid anything that will be a barrier to children participating in Scouting. Adding this fee was necessary to fund council operations.

For those who prefer fundraising, active participation in Popcorn sales is a great way to raise money to pay for the new council fee. Pine Tree Council units who actively sell popcorn have done very well in recent years.

We will implement the fee for renewals starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Scholarships will be available for those with financial hardship.

Thank you for all that you do for Scouting.

Jack O'Toole  
Council President

**Scout Executive**  
Matthew Klutzaritz

