

Annual Troop Fee Explained

Fee Explanation:

Troop 518 is run as a non-profit entity. This is done in order to make Scouting available to as many families as possible, and as inexpensively as possible. Therefore, our annual fees reflect the actual cost of doing business, divided by the number of boys in the Troop, plus all known fixed costs, most of which are set by Boy Scouts of America.

Each year in August, the Troop Treasurer certifies the total operating cost for the preceding year. The Committee Chairman then divides this amount by the number of projected Scouts for the upcoming year. All known fixed costs are added to this number to achieve the Annual Troop Fee. The amount of the Fee is then announced for the upcoming year during August. Each Scout seeking membership in Troop 518 pays this price by September 31.

The final Troop Fee for any individual Scout is reduced by his remaining "Scout Bucks" balance. This is done so that each Scout's "Scout Bucks" account is zero on Oct 1 of each year.

Fee Composition:

Actual operation costs divided by the number of Scouts	Varies each year
Troop Accident Insurance	Set by BSA
BSA Registration Fee + <i>Boy's Life</i> magazine	Set by BSA
FOS nominal donation	\$10.00 minimum
Adult registration fees	Set by BSA
Quality Unit patch	Set by BSA
Any approved additional fixed costs	Varies each year

Fee History

The following announcement was broadcast to all Troop parents on Sept 15, 1999:

"The Troop Committee agreed during the September 13, 1999 Committee Meeting to adopt a once-a-year Troop Fee in place of the monthly dues. This will align Troop 518 with Pack 518 and is the standard practice in many other troops. The Troop Fee will include all known fixed Scouting costs, including BSA registration, Troop dues, Boys Life subscription, Friends of Scouting, transfer fees and any accounting charges."

The following statement was published in the September 2000 Troop Committee Minutes:

"Troop 518 went to an annual dues collection system in 1999 based upon feedback from the Troop Treasurer. Annual collections greatly reduce the number of transactions for each Scout the Treasurer has to manage and track. In a Troop our size, it makes the difference between the Troop finances being managed by an amateur parent, or needing to hire a professional accountant.

At the time we set the dues last year, our Troop was a little smaller, and we had to estimate what some of the expenses would be. Note that by going to a single payment each year, we stopped having to track monthly payments for each boy, brought the payment schedule into alignment with Pack 518 and eliminated a hefty fee collection right after Christmas for re-charter.”

Additional Information

- The Troop 518 fiscal year begins every October 1 and ends the following September 30.
- Additional late charges may be set by the Committee Chairman as a gentle reminder to forgetful parents.
- Prospective Scouts may visit without joining or wearing a uniform. Hopefully during that time the boy will have the opportunity to go on a Troop campout. Campouts are not free. All youth campers pay all applicable campout fees.
- At the end of the visitation period, with approval from the Scoutmaster, the prospective Scout may join Troop 518. At that time he will pay the applicable fee, buy a uniform, *BSA Scout Handbook* and any other parts of the uniform provided by the Troop.
- Many Webelo parents who "crossed-over" after February, and who have already paid the BSA Registration fee in the NE Georgia Council for that same year, have asked about the duplication of payments. In the case of "cross-over" Scouts, the \$16 registration fee is used to offset the cost of other items awarded at cross-over.
- Troop 518 is a non-profit business. We try our best to keep our annual fee inline with the actual costs. Excess funds from enlistment fees will be spent in such a way as to reduce costs for all parents. The exact method for this is up to the Troop Committee.
- No Scout will ever be turned away from Troop 518 for lack of funds. The Committee Chairman and Scoutmaster can work out a schedule of service projects and/or a payment plan for any budget. However, each special payment plan must be presented in writing to the Troop Treasurer.
- In all ways Troop 518 tries to be fair and equitable with each Scout family. Our purpose is to build an exciting program available to all qualified boys that is not conditional on the participation of individual Scouts or parents. Our program is planned 12 months in advance based on the funds collected during September. In order to follow through with the promise made to the Scouts, the stated rule must be: Troop 518 does not make refunds.