



NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

www.northernstarbsa.org

September 28, 2012

Dear Unit Leader:

Thank you for all you do to ensure a quality Scouting program occurs in your unit! We are at the middle of the fall youth recruiting campaign and soon you will be involved with your unit's annual charter renewal. We want to share with you two changes to the upcoming unit charter renewal process.

Change in Unit Charter Fee

Effective January 1, 2013, what has been known as the annual "unit charter fee" will now be known as the "unit liability insurance" fee and will increase in cost from \$20 to \$40. This increase is a direct reflection of an increase in costs to the general liability insurance program. 100% of the annual unit liability insurance fee has always gone to this insurance program, which is administered by the National Boy Scouts of America (as you may know already, all membership fees and charter fees are transmitted directly to the national office by Northern Star Council.) It is worth noting that this unit fee has not increased since 1986, and that the premiums paid by Northern Star will also increase by \$35,000 in 2013.

Change in Unit Charter Renewal Period

This change is being initiated by our council. During the upcoming unit charter renewal cycle, we will be moving each unit's expiration month to December, and we will collect the renewal documents and payments in the fall. Essentially, we are moving all units onto a calendar year cycle of January 1 through December 31. To make this change, we will use the 2013 unit charter renewal process as a transition year. Troops/teams/ships/crews will renew as planned in January 2013, but will have an 11 month charter for one year only. Packs renew as normal in March, but will have a 9 month charter. Your youth/adult fees will be pro-rated for 2013 based on which month (January or March) your unit currently renews in.

For the 2014 Scouting year, all units will renew their charter again by December 2013 (due in the fall of 2013) and be on a calendar renewal cycle.

There are several advantages to this change, here are just a few:

- Unit charter renewal will more closely follow the school year (charters will be handed out in the fall)
- Unit volunteers can complete all the registration administrative tasks within the same period; adding new members, and expiring and renewing youth members/adult volunteers at the beginning of the program year
- All ScoutNet unit rosters will be current as the new calendar year begins

If you have any questions, please call 763-231-7201 to contact your district executive or field director. Thank you for your continued work to help make today's youth tomorrow's leaders within your community.

Yours in Scouting,

Steve Wilcox
Volunteer VP of District Operations

Brian Bullock
Volunteer Council Commissioner

