Greetings to our Inland Northwest Council Family,

On October 23rd, 2019 the BSA announced National Membership Fees for youth will increase from $33 to $60, starting January 1, 2020. There are concerns some families will no longer be able to afford Scouting. INWC wants to ensure no Scout is left behind, yet no single entity can resolve these financial challenges alone. Parents, Unit Leadership and Chartering Organization Partners, along with Council Leadership and Professionals, need to be actively involved solving issues at the lowest level possible.

*How much can the family reasonably afford?* Every family will have different circumstances, and no one should assume which families will need assistance. Unit Leaders must engage families to determine what their needs are and give them the opportunity to pay their way first.

When a family needs help the unit is encouraged to cover all or part of the need, if possible. Consider also allowing families to make incremental payments or earn their way through upcoming fundraising opportunities. Needs that cannot be met should be elevated to the Chartered Organization.

When engaging the Chartering Organization explain support needed, what the unit can provide, and what Financial help is needed. Encourage your Chartering Organization to discuss the issue with their decision-making body.

If additional financial support is still needed, please complete the attached request form. The council is committed to ensuring all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation.

The point of contact is Darrin Nicholson, Assistant Scout Executive. Darrin can be reached at darrin.nicholson@scouting.org or by calling the Council Service Center at (509) 325-4562.

Darrin W. Nicholson
Assistant Scout Executive/COO
Inland Northwest Council Membership Assistance Fund Request

This form must be completed and submitted by Unit Leadership, not the individual families. This helps ensure units stay involved in the process of assisting their families, and information is as accurate as possible. Keep in mind that asking for help is never easy for most people. Applications must be kept as confidential as possible, only sharing information with those who have a “need to know.” All requests will be kept confidential. The preferred submittal method is to cut and paste the questions below into an email, answer and send. This form can also be mailed to the Council Service Center, scanned and emailed, or the questions copied into an email and sent directly to darrin.nicholson@scouting.org.

Date of Request:

Unit type and number (ie…Troop 1111)

Person Making the Request:

Person’s position in the unit:

Email Address:

Phone or Cell Number:

Name of Family or Families needing Assistance:

A brief description of the family, their Scouting involvement, and their circumstances (Tell their story):

Number of youths in the family:

Number of youths in Scouting:

Describe the fundraisers or efforts the family has been involved in to cover registration fees, if none explain why:

Total amount of fees for the family before any assistance:

Amount the family is able to pay; if none explain the circumstances:

Amount the unit can support; if none please explain the circumstances:

Amount the Chartering Organization can contribute, if none explain:

Chartering Organization point of contact, email and phone number:

Total amount requested from the Membership Assistance Fund: