

Join Our Partnership for Scouting



Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Will the additional funds raised through the Partnership for Scouting be used for debt relief?*

While debt service is a part of the Great Southwest Council operating budget, paying down debt is not the intended use of additional funds. Currently, the Great Southwest Council has four district executives covering seven districts. This level of staffing does not allow for even a minimum level of service to our volunteer corps. In order to operate in an effective manner and grow Scouting, our Council needs at least six district executives working in the field.

2. *The families in my unit cannot afford \$145 per Scout. Will we still be able to recharter at the end of 2017?*

The Partnership for Scouting was developed to incentivize unit participation in the various fundraising efforts of the Great Southwest Council. While all options have to be evaluated, there is not an intent at this time to make the \$145 fee mandatory in order to recharter. The Partnership letter you received mentioned that a mandatory fee might have to be instituted in the future, but that was in an effort of total transparency.

3. *When will our unit begin to receive the benefits of achieving Partner Unit status?*

The benefits listed in the Partnership letter will begin for qualifying units on January 1, 2018 and run through the full calendar year. This allows every unit the opportunity to reach their goal throughout 2017 and enjoy a full year of benefits.

4. *Why does the Great Southwest Council need so much money? What is the budget?*

The finances of the Great Southwest Council are spent under the careful supervision of the Council Executive Board, comprised of Scouting volunteers eager to make the Council a big success. The budget they have developed includes three major expenses; operating the Council Service Center; operation and maintenance of Gorham Scout Ranch; and staff salaries. The three main sources of funding are Friends of Scouting, popcorn sales, and camping/activity revenue.