

EXPLANATION of new UNIT SUPPORT FEE

- Since 2013 membership standard changes at BSA have caused lost funding to the Gulf Coast Council of nearly \$400,000.
- This loss has caused major pressure to general operations, council services and facilities. The council has downsized the staff, cut payroll and suspended all raises since 2013. Major cuts in all line item expenses have also been done to the point that services are beginning to be affected.
- There have been board approved measures to try and increase funding such as changes to product sales, changes in FOS campaign structure and insurance replacement fee.
- In June of 2019 at the summer executive board meeting, the board approved a funding model change for the council. This change removed the \$10 insurance fee paid by all members at recharter. The change included giving all participating units and increase in popcorn commissions from 33% to 65% and changes campcard commissions from 50% to 100%
- It should be noted that less than 50% of the total units in the council helps the council by selling popcorn or campcards and family FOS giving has decreased since 2013 by almost 50%.
- The funding model change includes the changes in product sale commissions and request that units pay a Council Unit support fee of \$125 per youth member. This fee is not intended to be passed to the scout but requested as a group effort within the product sales or other preferred unit fundraisers.
- The unit support fee is NOT tied to registration. NO scout will be turned away from scouting for not helping with the fee. A unit will be rechartered weather they pay the unit fee or not.
- The fee and asking units to volunteer the fee as support to the council was meant to be a group scout family effort to try and recover some of the funding loss which effects all scouts and units.
- The fee, while NOT connected to registration and recharter is to be paid when the unit pays recharter. This is intended to impact the unit at its lowest membership point during the year. Scouts that join during the year would not be counted until they recharter the following year.
- If units chose not to help by paying the fee or attempt to pay a portion of the fee, they may not be able to participate in council product sales. If less than 70% of our projected year end youth do not pay the fee, other decisions related to services and facilities may have to be made.