



TRAIL LIFE USA

Adventure > Character > Leadership

ANNUAL TROOP AND MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM COSTS

As you evaluate chartering a Trail Life Troop, we want complete transparency in regards to the fees associated with maintaining a Troop as it pertains to payments due to the Trail Life USA Home Office. Questions about these fees should be directed to Martha Schmidt, Troop Engagement Coordinator at Charter@TrailLifeUSA.com.

Here is a complete summary of first year and subsequent years' Troop and membership fees:

Troop Fees Year #1:

Pre-charter Fee (\$99): The \$99 Pre-charter fee is a one-time fee collected for initial processing and evaluation. It is not refundable nor is it applied to the Charter fee. The charter leader will be sent a Welcome Kit that contains key materials to give you a better idea of the Trail Life USA program. It includes a \$50 Trail Life USA store credit which is activated if the Troop charters within 90 days.

Original Charter Fee (\$325)*: The first year charter fee is assessed to each church/Charter Organization (all age-level Programs are included in one charter).

**If your church/Charter Organization also charters a new American Heritage Girls Troop, you are eligible to receive a \$50 refund from both TLUSA and AHG (\$100 total). This only applies to the initial application and both charters must be completed at the same time.*

Troop Fees Subsequent Years:

Subsequent Year Re-charter Fee (\$195): The charter fee for subsequent years is assessed to each church/Charter Organization annually on the anniversary of their charter date during the re-charter process (all age-level Programs are included in one charter).

Annual Troop Program Fee (\$20/youth registered)*: The Annual Troop Program Fee is assessed automatically to the Troop Treasurer at the time of re-charter and is charged at \$20 for each Registered Youth Member, with payment due by the Troop within six months. Some Troops may have many registered youth, so this six-month period allows each Troop the opportunity to determine its own plan for covering this program expense, whether that is through assessing their Troop members or conducting a Troop fundraiser. The Program Fee is not tagged to individual boys, but to the total number of boys registered at that time. So, **whether a boy is active or not is not the issue, as all Troops are experiencing growth and new boys are replacing old.** If your Troop is not experiencing growth please contact your Point Man, as he can assist you to grow your Troop and reach more families.

**Further explanation from the Trail Life USA Board of Directors about the Annual Troop Program Fee can be found on the following page in the excerpt from August 2014.*

Annual Youth and Adult Membership Fee:

Annual Membership Fee (\$26):

This fee is paid directly to Trail Life USA by each individual youth and adult member when they submit their initial membership application to Trail Life USA, and annually thereafter on the anniversary of their membership.

The Annual Troop Program Fee:

As we approach our first recharter opportunities, we want to draw our Troops' attention to the ***Annual Troop Program Fee*** that is assessed starting the second year a Troop is chartered. On its recharter date, the ***Annual Troop Program Fee*** of \$20 for each Registered Youth Member is charged to the Troop, with payment due within six months. This program fee is waived in the Troop's first year as they work to get their program established.

The ***Annual Troop Program Fee*** maintains our fee structure parity with our sister organization, the American Heritage Girls, allowing both organizations to develop, maintain, and grow a strong and vibrant program for our youth that is primarily membership-funded and does not depend on major corporate donations to support our standard program offerings.

As Trail Life USA has the opportunity, we will investigate and negotiate specific fundraising programs that include preferred pricing options for Trail Life USA Troops, and we will make those programs available to our Troops. While Trail Life USA will collect appropriate royalties from such companies for their use of the Trail Life USA name, logo, and website fundraising directory, our Troops will retain 100% of the funds that they earn from these nationally negotiated Troop fundraisers as well as any locally negotiated fundraisers that they participate in.

The ***Annual Troop Program Fee*** will provide for the budgetary needs of the national Trail Life USA organization, ***thereby making it possible for Troops to retain 100% of the profits from their fundraisers***. We believe that the flat and simple Annual Troop Program Fee will allow Troops to be as creative and financially viable as they wish, while still providing for the needs of the Home Office.

Troops can obtain or negotiate preferred pricing on fundraising goods and services, and retain the money earned for the use of their Troop. The resulting effect should be to increase the impact of fundraisers on a local level so Troops can offer more adventure and opportunity for their boys and families. This will allow fundraisers to supplement family-provided funds that would otherwise be required to deliver the same level of program options.

Troops overseeing their own fundraisers will be able to set their own fundraising criteria, maintain their own simplified accounting, and account for the income and expenses associated with their own fundraiser(s). Within the general guidelines that Trail Life USA has set for fundraising, Troops are not required to have their fundraisers approved by the Home Office. Only their Chartering Organization is required to approve and oversee a Troop fundraiser (There are some general Trail Life USA policies regarding fundraising, i.e., regarding games of chance and solicitation of donations during fundraisers).

While we have mentioned the ***Annual Troop Program Fee*** in several forums and emails, it is important that the appropriate information about Troop fees is disseminated enough in advance so that you will be prepared and can plan accordingly.