

December 5th, 2025

Dear Scouting Leaders and Families,

When we announced the program fee change in April 2025, we committed to keeping our Scouting community informed every step of the way. Since then, we have held a series of virtual and in-person town halls to explain the reasons for the increase, how the fee is structured, and how we intend to address the long-term financial needs of our Council. As we approach the new year, we want to share our first formal update and outline how we continue moving forward together.

Status Update

Over the last several months, we have seen meaningful progress in several key areas:

- **Popcorn Sales:** Unit participation and sales increased by 18 percent over 2024. This growth has had an immediate, positive impact on Council operations. Importantly, 50 Packs and Troops earned more than \$139,000 in commissions, keeping those funds directly within their units while also supporting the Council.
- **Fundraising Events:** We expanded our fundraising calendar by adding two additional events this fall. Both events saw strong engagement and generated important revenue for Council programming while promoting Scouting “friendraising” in the broader community.
- **Camp Attendance:** Summer camp participation increased in 2025, and early indicators show we are on track for another year of growth in 2026.
- **Payment Flexibility:** We heard families clearly during our spring town halls that a payment plan was essential. We advocated strongly for this option, and as a result, our Council became one of the first in the nation to introduce Klarna, giving families the ability to spread their program fee into smaller, more manageable installments.

Moving Forward Together

While these results are encouraging, we must continue broadening participation across all units to sustain the programs, properties, and services that serve our 7,500 youth, 3,500 adult volunteers, and our 2,900 acres of camp property.



Of the 290 units in our Council, only 60 units currently participate in Council-level fundraising efforts such as popcorn, nuts, or fudge sales. We understand that each unit operates differently, but all of us benefit from the shared resources the Council provides. To ensure fairness and long-term sustainability, we are asking units that do not participate in popcorn sales or attend camp to support the Council in at least one of the following ways:

- Participate in at least one Council-wide fundraising effort, such as Popcorn, Nuts, or Fudge
- Support Council operations through direct monetary contributions
- Share 10 to 15 percent of your independent fundraising

This request is rooted in the Scouting values we teach our young people: helpfulness, loyalty, and community responsibility. When every unit contributes in some way, we all benefit.

Resources

More information about the 2026 program fee can be found here:

<https://www.ghvscouting.org/blog/2025/04/21/ghv-program-fee-2026/>

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Scouting. Your leadership and partnership make it possible for the Greater Hudson Valley Council to continue delivering exceptional programs and life-changing experiences for our Scouts.

Yours in Scouting,

Jann Mirchandani
Chair, Program Fee Task Force
Greater Hudson Valley Council

For questions about:

- Member and Unit Renewal: GHV.Registration@scouting.org
- Popcorn, Nuts, and Fudge Sales: GHV.Popcorn@Scouting.org
- Camping at Read, Bullowa, or Durland: GHV.Camping@Scouting.org





Scouting America™

GREATER HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL

THE VALUE YOUR COUNCIL PROVIDES



Maintaining our camping facilities at Camp Read, Camp Bullowa, and Camp Durland ensures Scouts have safe, high-quality outdoor experiences.

Providing comprehensive training and support ensures volunteer leaders can deliver safe and effective programming for all Scouts.



Delivering quality programming resources enriches the Scouting experience, enhancing engagement and learning opportunities within local communities.



THUNDERBIRD GAMES

Our largest Games since 2020 – we welcomed more than 2,700 Scouts, volunteers, vendors, and families.



FREE PWD PROGRAM

Cub Scout Packs created and worked their membership plans and qualified for free PWD cars. A total of 1,735 went out to 50 Cub Scouts Packs!



1,500 new families joined in 2025!

Stony Point, New York



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Camp Bullowa's summer camp attendance grew 18% with the addition of Eagle Week and more programs.



RESIDENT CAMP

Camp Read's summer camp attendance surpassed 1,000 in 2025 while adding new troop cooking pavilions in Waubeeka, 4 new staff cabins, a new bus, and more.





Scouting America

Greater Hudson Valley Council

GHV's Top 15 Popcorn Units



Rank	Unit	District	Total Sales	Commission
1	Troop 1101 Rock Hill	Hudson-Delaware	\$69,315	\$25,635
2	Pack 1101 Rock Hill	Hudson-Delaware	\$28,177	\$10,369
3	Pack 0028 Croton	Croton River	\$26,728	\$9,504
4	Pack 0005 White Plains	Mohican	\$21,472	\$8,193
5	Pack 4023 West Point	Hudson-Delaware	\$18,333	\$6,442
6	Pack 0101 Lewisboro	Croton River	\$16,255	\$6,204
7	Troop 2146 Tuxedo	Rockland	\$13,788	\$5,627
8	Troop 4038 Warwick	Hudson-Delaware	\$11,992	\$4,010
9	Pack 3033 Pleasant Valley	Dutchess	\$10,747	\$3,603
10	Troop 3086 Beekman	Dutchess	\$10,556	\$3,537
11	Pack 0001 Carmel	Croton River	\$10,220	\$3,315
12	Troop 1101G Rock Hill	Hudson-Delaware	\$10,217	\$3,562
13	Pack 1041 Pine Bush	Hudson-Delaware	\$10,194	\$3,577
14	Pack 3077 Beekman	Dutchess	\$9,183	\$3,113
15	Pack 0007 Tuckahoe	Algonquin	\$8,520	\$2,812

1st Place
Cub Scout
\$9,002

Madoc C.
Pack 101
Lewisboro



1st Place
Scouts BSA
\$13,132

Jayden G.
Troop 1101
Rock Hill



Questions about popcorn or other Council fundraisers? Email GHV.Popcorn@Scouting.org

Join us for our 2026 Council Product Sales Kick Off to learn about our Nuts, Fudge, & Popcorn Sale!

When: January 15th, 7PM, Zoom

