

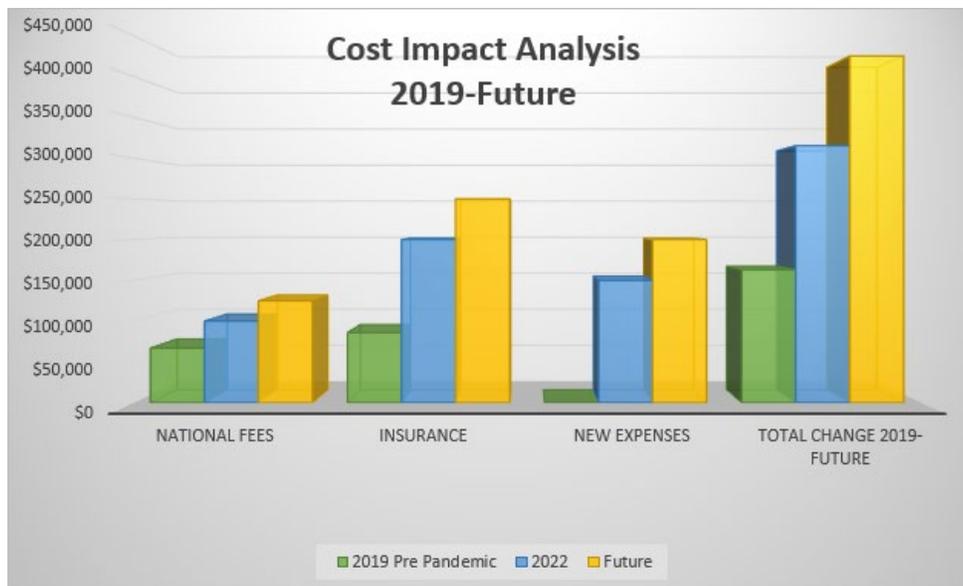


Dear Scout Leaders & Parents,

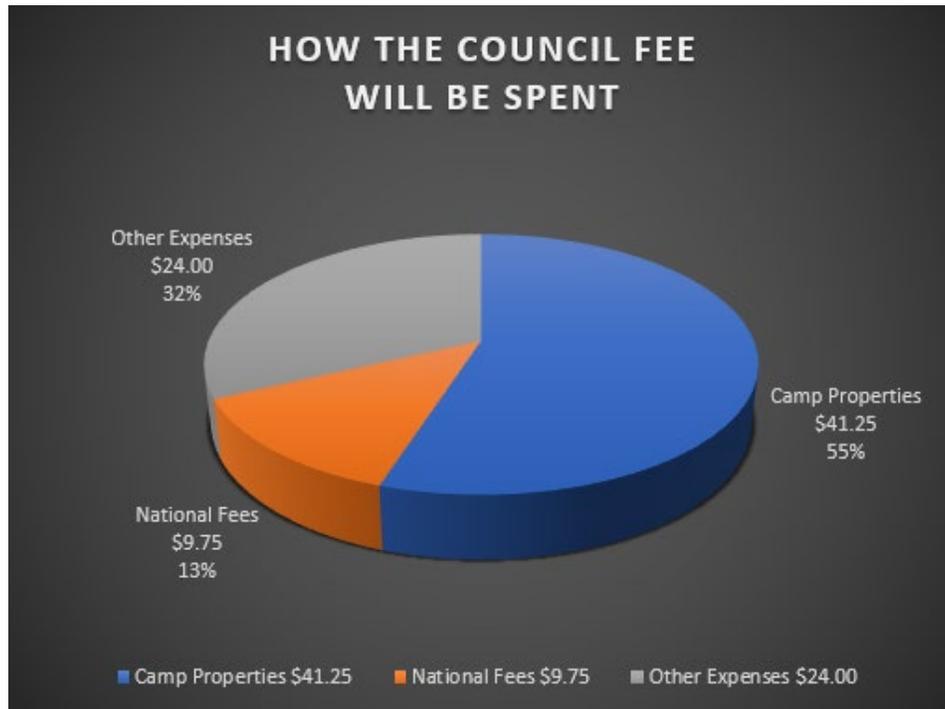
In the last few years, while we have weathered the loss of the LDS units, operated during Covid and navigated the bankruptcy of the national organization, we have worked hard to develop a strategy and vision for the future of our council. Each one of you is a critical part of our future and we appreciate your dedication and hard work helping us not only survive, but begin to thrive as we move forward. We are back on our feet and we are growing again. Together, we have a brilliant future.

As we developed the strategy and vision for a strong council that we hope will serve over 20 thousand diverse youth, we also came to realize the financial realities of our situation. We are incredibly fortunate to offer opportunities that youth in other parts of the country can only dream of; however, it has become very clear that our current funding structure is inadequate.

For years, the Council has tried to avoid charging support fees but recently over the last three years the Golden Empire Council has seen an unprecedented increase in fixed expenses. Perhaps most dramatically, fire insurance for our camps has skyrocketed, increasing over three hundred percent in three years. We have deferred maintenance of our summer camps to a point that no longer can be ignored. In addition, we need to make capital improvements to our camps to welcome girls into our camps and ensure their safety and comfort. These are just a few items that collectively add up to over \$400,000 of new annual operating costs. Because of this we must make a change in how our families participate financially in our Council, or future Scouts in the Golden Empire Council will not enjoy the great Scouting opportunities that we all have today.



To address these raising costs and to create a new dedicated Camp Maintenance Fund, the Golden Empire Council's Executive Board voted unanimously to implement a council fee equal to the national registration fee (currently \$75 per youth and \$45 per adult that). This council fee is in addition to the annual national registration fee. The new council fee will be implemented beginning **August 1st prorated for any new registrations and January 1, 2023 (connected with recharter) for any currently registered youth and adults.**



This new council fee will enable the council to continue to operate our programs and facilities, maintain unit service at the district level, continue to offer a store/office in the northern part of our council and create a fund dedicated to much needed facilities maintenance and improvement at our well-loved Camp Lassen and Winton.

Please know that this decision was not made lightly or quickly. We understand deeply that the addition of any fee can be challenging. The Golden Empire Council remains committed to providing fundraising opportunities through the camp card and popcorn program with the goal that 100% of the registration fees can be covered by unit members working together to achieve that goal. In addition to multiple fundraising opportunities available to every family, the Golden Empire is creating a council membership fee scholarship application for families that may require additional financial assistance.

We ask for your support and that you embrace this new program and help be part of the solution to delivering great Scouting programs as we move forward into 2023. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of Scouting!

Sonja Herne
Board Chairwoman

Mark Shafer
Council President

James Rhodes-Dreyer
Scout Executive/CEO

Michael Jacques
Council Commissioner