

# Narragansett Adventure Card

Introduced in 2021, the Adventure Card provides a more equitable funding method for our Scouting families. Members will pay for the new Adventure Card annually along with unit and National BSA dues and will receive services and support to include, but not limited to, the following:

Free attendance at our "Open Adventure Days" at **any** Adventure Base Camp:  
[ExperienceBaseCamp.org](http://ExperienceBaseCamp.org)

9 outstanding camps with free tent camping year-round\*  
\*Except Camp Sandsland

Free basic training for volunteer leaders

Coordination of 200 Scouting activities each year from Klondike Derbies and Scouting for Food to the Cub Scout Chuckwagon event

Discounts on activities including merit badge colleges, camporees, adventure days, virtual merit badges and more

Discounts on day camp and summer camp fees

Membership, marketing, and recruitment campaigns

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic for all leaders and their families

Free shipping from Narragansett Council Scout Shops

Accident and Sickness Insurance for Scouts and leaders

Eagle Scout review and coordination

Leadership support through our district executives, unit service coordinators, program director, camp staff, and customer service staff

"Forever Commitment" to provide assistance to families needing financial help

## Old Funding Model

National charges dues (\$72, \$45 for adults; one-time \$25 new youth member fee)

Units charge dues (\$0-\$150)

Council does NOT charge dues, Council requests donations from families during Family Friends of Scouting Campaign

## Challenges to Funding Model

United Way giving decreased from 50% to 1% of revenue (over many years)

More and more corporations and foundations restrict donations to Scoutreach

Out-of-council camp attendance drops dramatically and will likely stay lower than in past due to COVID-19

Only 20% of families contribute to Family Friends of Scouting Campaign

100% of families benefit from council services even though only 20% donate

## New Funding Model

National and Units charge dues

Council charges for Adventure Card

Families are charged a fair price for a quality program that is provided by the unit/ council/national.

Units no longer asked to hold a Family Friends of Scouting presentation

Families may request financial assistance

In order to deliver services that parents, leaders and units expect, we must change our funding model

## The Narragansett Adventure Card is a more equitable way to Fund Scouting

Instead of 20% of our families making an average Friends of Scouting donation of \$136 a year and 80% not making any contribution, participants will be charged \$48 (Cubs and Scouts BSA) or \$12 (Venturers, Sea Scouts, adult leaders).

Units will now earn up to 40% commission in the Popcorn Sale (vs. a max of 37% previously) to help fund Scouting participation

## Is Scouting still a value? **ABSOLUTELY!**

With Cubs and Scouts BSA youth registration fees at \$72 and the Adventure Card fee of \$48, that comes to only \$10-a-month!

Then, consider that average unit dues are \$75, for total of \$195 for a 12-month program.

- Youth baseball: ranges from \$70 to \$150 for a 6-8 week season
- Youth soccer: ranges from \$65 to \$125 for a 6-8 week season
- Family YMCA membership: \$75 to \$85 per month Martial arts classes: \$50-\$100 per month
- Youth hockey: \$500 and up per season

# What is Adventure Base Camp (ABC)?

ABC is our NEW, innovative program initiative located at Camp Champlin in Cranston, RI. ABC also produces on-site adventure! Virtual programs like merit badge workshops as well as mobile programs are held at camps and locations throughout the council.

[ExperienceBaseCamp.org](http://ExperienceBaseCamp.org)



Program areas for both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA to enjoy outdoor adventure and to work on Scouting advancement.



Outdoor adventure for Scouts and families.



BMX bikes, outdoor cooking center, fire-building and axe yard, our new Axe Throwing Range, swimming (in summer), archery, BB guns, fitness trail, hiking, orienteering and much more!

---

ABC offers several "Open Adventure Days" throughout the year that are FREE for Adventure Card holders (normally \$20 per person) and specialty workshops (discounted fee applies).

---



# The Narragansett Adventure Card

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. What do I get with the Adventure Card?
- A. Discounts on council activities (merit badge colleges, camporees, day camps, summer camps, and more). Scouts from other councils will not receive these discounts!
- Free admittance to “Open Adventure Days” at our Adventure Base Camp (normally \$20 per person)
  - Free shipping on your purchases from Narragansett Council Scout Shops (does not include purchases from national BSA)
  - Free unit camping at our council camps (not including Sandsland)
- Q. When does the Adventure Card start?
- A. Renews each year on January 1. Units will collect the Adventure Card fee along with national BSA dues at recharter time (October-November) for the coming year  
Like the National registration fee, beginning on January 1, the Adventure Card fee will be prorated monthly based on when a new member joins
- Q. What is the cost?
- A. Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA: \$48 per calendar year or \$4 per month if someone joins during the year. Venturers, Sea Scouts, Explorers, and adult volunteers: \$12 per calendar year or \$1 per month if someone joins partway through the year. This is in addition to unit and national dues
- Q. Is it required?
- A. Yes, all youth and adults in the Narragansett Council will be charged for the Adventure Card upon registration
- Q. What if a family has more than 1 Scout plus adults who are registered?
- A. The maximum Adventure Card fee for an immediate family (parents/guardians and their children in the same household) will be \$100. Due to limitations in the registration system, registrants will have to pay the full fee for each person that they register, but they can immediately request a refund for any amount over the \$100 family maximum. *Refunds must be requested by March 1<sup>st</sup>.*
- Q. What if a family can't afford the cost of unit dues, Adventure Card and the national fee?
- A. Families may request assistance through our “assistance program” which has limited resources to assist families with participation fees
- Q. Why the change?
- A. The current model of funding does not work. Today, 20% of our families are funding the program. 80% are not. The new Adventure Card is more equitable for all Scout families. While this change will likely occur at some point even without the pandemic, the pandemic has forced us to make this change immediately in order to keep Scouting thriving
- Q. Does the United Way fund the Scouting program?
- A. The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimac Valley provides funding for Scoutreach programs in Massachusetts. We receive no funding from the United Way of Rhode Island. United Way funding represents 1% of revenue
- Q. Do corporations and foundations provide funding for general operating expenses?
- A. Some do. More and more corporations and foundations are restricting their donations to Scoutreach and camperships



# The Narragansett Adventure Card

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Will the council hold a Friends of Scouting Campaign?  
A. Yes. The Friends of Scouting Campaign raises funds to help families that need assistance. We will no longer ask units to hold an annual FOS presentation. We will invite all families to contribute to the annual campaign through mail, email, social media. In addition, we will conduct an annual Community FOS Campaign to invite alumni, businesses, and other groups to contribute to support a strong Scouting program in the Narragansett Council
- Q. How will this change the popcorn sale?  
A. The popcorn sale maximum unit commission increases to 40% for those that qualify. This is to help Scouts and units fund their Scouting program
- Q. What is Adventure Base Camp?  
A. Adventure Base Camp located at Camp Champlin provides opportunities for Scouts and families to build character, create memories and acquire life skills while enjoying outdoor adventure. Adventure Base Camp provides on-site programming throughout the year, virtual programs such as virtual merit badges, and on-the-go programs that will be offered at other camps and in communities
- Q. Will I receive an actual card?  
A. Yes. Cards will be produced and distributed upon your unit's processed recharter
- Q. How can Scouts earn their way?  
A. The popcorn sale, unit assistance, charter organizations, and the Narragansett Forever Fund
- Q. How will the Narragansett Adventure Card fee be collected?  
A. It will be collected via the internet recharter system when units pay their annual charter in Fall for the following calendar year. Units will collect the fees when collecting the national BSA annual registration fee. When new Scouts or adults register after Jan 1, the fee will be prorated by month and collected at the time of registration along with the national registration fee
- Q. Do adults serving in district and council positions also pay the \$12 fee?  
A. Yes
- Q. Do Merit Badge Counselors pay the fee?  
A. No
- Q. Do transfer adults and youth pay the fee?  
A. Yes. All adults and youth registering in the Narragansett Council will be required to pay the Adventure Card fee. Members transferring from one of our partner councils (Spirit of Adventure or Daniel Webster) can show proof of their Adventure Card and will not be charged the fee since our Adventure Cards are reciprocal.
- Q. Can we request a refund if we transfer out of council?  
A. No. The Adventure Card has many benefits and not all are in person activities. You are still invited to take advantage of our virtual programming and free shipping.

