

INDIVIDUAL YOUTH ACCOUNTS

Individual Youth Accounts teach Scouts to be Thrifty as they save for their future in Scouting. Scouts learn personal management not by lectures but through life experiences. The BSA suggests that a Scout's earnings be applied first to his annual costs with remaining money going into the Scout's Individual Youth Account. Some units instead take the boy's earnings and divide them up.

Individual Accounts are bookkeeping accounts, not separate bank accounts. Units *"..using this method have traditionally had stronger programs with less turnover of youth..."* - scouting.org

"Paying your own way is a fundamental principle of the Boy Scouts of America. It is one of the reasons why no solicitations (requests for contributions from individuals or the community) are permitted by units. Young people in Scouting are taught early on that if they want something in life, they need to earn it. The finance plan of any unit should include participation by the Scouts." - BSA

Benefits of Individual Youth Accounts

There are many benefits in using the BSA Individual Youth Accounts program:

1. Scouts learn self-reliance - success come from from your own hard work, not from taking from others.
2. Scouts learn to plan for financial goals such as summer camp, trips, equipment, and uniforms.
3. Scouts learn life skills of personal management through life experiences not lectures.
4. A Scout is more likely to attend if he paid for the event through his own work.
5. A Scout is more likely to stay in Scouts if he has earned his funds for the activities he wants to do.

Basic Expenses

In one weekend of fundraising, a Scout can earn enough in his Individual Account to pay for:

- § Registration: \$10 goes to the National Council.
- § Boys' Life: \$12 magazine subscription.
- § Accident Insurance is just a few dollars per Scout and protects you from medical bills from an accident in Scouting.
- § Advancement: costs include awards, ranks, patches, and more.
- § Activities: Cub Scouts: Pinewood Derbies, trips, ball games, camping, and much more.
Boy Scouts: Camping, trips, events, and much more.
- § Camp: Cub Scouts attend Day Camp, Cub Scout Resident Camp, and Family Camp.
Webelos Scouts attend Webelos Resident Camp tailored to their growing interests and abilities.
Boy Scouts attend Boy Scout Summer Camp with even more opportunities for older boys.
- § Program Materials: books and supplies, flags, camping equipment, and more.
- § Uniforms are an ongoing expense as Scouts grow through the ranks and sizes.
- § Unit Expenses: The Scout's fair share of unit recharter, fees, equipment, flags, etc.

Importance to Packs

"Packs using this method have traditionally had stronger programs with less turnover of youth (Cub Scouts are retained). Individual Cub Scout accounts, whereby the pack keeps track of how much a Cub Scout or his family has raised toward his "ideal year of Cub Scouting" goal, are critical to the success of this program. When individual Cub Scouts are credited for their efforts, they develop a sense of personal responsibility and participation." - Annual Budget Plan

Importance to Webelos

Individual Youth Accounts are critical for Webelos Scouts to crossover into Boy Scouts. A boy who has learned to work towards his goals will be able to participate in more activities and is more likely to stay in. Plus many Webelos Scouts have earnings to take with them into Boy Scouts for new uniforms, equipment, and Boy Scout Summer Camp. Packs send the boy on not just with money, but with personal management skills.

Importance to Boy Scouts

There is so much more a Boy Scout can do. You will need backpacks and equipment and merit badge books. Your activities are better now: Climbing, Hiking, Canoeing, and so much more. Summer Camp adds Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, Snorkeling, and Wilderness Survival. The bigger the fun, the bigger the price, and the more important Individual Accounts become. Scouts who learn self-reliance will go far.

Participation Fees Do Little to Teach Responsibility

"An annual unit participation fee, too often completely contributed by parents, does little to teach a boy responsibility. The unit's entire budget must be provided for by the families, either through fund-raising or other means such as dues or fees." - BSA

From: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Individual_Youth_Accounts