Purpose

Troop 595 has established the Scout Account Program as a method of providing financial assistance to scouts and their families. Scout accounts serve as a primary motivator for Scouts to reach their full potential and “Earn Their Way” in Scouting by participating in the troop’s designated Fundraising programs to fund the entire program year!

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 the remaining money going into the Scout’s Individual Youth Account

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 principal of the Boy Scouts of America. It is one of the reasons why no solicitations (requests for contributions from individuals from the community) are discouraged by units. Young people in Scouting are taught early on that if they want something, they need to earn it. The finance plan of any unit should include participation by the Scouts” - BSA

Rationale for Policy

• Encourage greater participation in fundraising activities.

• Encourage profitable fundraising activities

• Apply financial credit to those Scouts who participate in fundraising activities

• Provide opportunities to reduce financial burden on families for camp and high adventure activities

• Ensure consistency in application of funds to individual Scouts’ accounts; and,

• Providing alternative to scholarships

Benefits of Individual Youth Accounts

• Scouts learn self-reliance - success comes from your own hard work, not from taking from others

• Scouts learn to plan for financial goals such as summer camp, trips, equipment, and uniforms

• Scouts learn life skills of personal management through life experiences, not lectures

• A Scout is more likely to attend if he paid for the event through his own work

• A Scout is more likely to stay in Scouts if he has earned his funds for the activities he wants to do.
Basic Expenses

- **Re-charter Expenses:**
  - Registration: $15
  - Boy’s Life: $12
  - Accident Insurance: Just a few dollars per scout protects you from medical bills from an accident in Scouting

- **Advancement:** Costs including awards, ranks, patches and more

- **Activities:** Camping, trips, events, and much more

- **Camp:** Summer camp provides a special set of opportunities for Scouts of all ages

- **Program Materials:** Books and supplies, camping equipment, and more

- **Uniforms:** The ongoing expense as Scouts grow through the ranks and their sizes

**Participation Fees do Little to Teach Responsibility**

"An annual Unit participation fee or separate activity fees, too often completely contributed by the parents, does little to teach boys responsibility." - BSA

Boy Scout Youth Accounts

1. **General Issues**

   1.1. The Troop committee shall establish, at the time a fundraising activity is approved, if the fundraising activity will be subject to this account policy, as well as the method for determining earned credit.

   1.2. The following methods are examples of how to determine the value from which a percentage of funds raised may be credited to a Scout's individual account. Sales of tickets; sales of merchandise; credit for time worked at a fundraising activity.

   1. Typically, as determined by the finance committee and/or fundraising committee
      
      a. A Scout will be given complete credit for pre-sale tickets
      
      b. Of the allotted profit to the troop, from popcorn sales, 20% will go directly into each Scout’s account

   1.3. The Troop committee shall establish the percentage of money earned through each fundraising activity which will be applied to an individual Scout’s account. The balance of funds raised will be credited to the Troop general fund.
1.4. Fundraising activities may be at the Troop or at the Patrol level. All fundraising activities will display their affiliation with Troop 595 in a prominent manner for the duration of the fundraising event.

1.5. Boys will be required to wear their uniforms for the duration of the activity

1.6. The Troop Committee Chair shall designate a Project Chairperson for every Troop sponsored fundraising activity. The Project Chair shall be responsible for all funds; received from the fundraising activity.

1.7. The Troop Committee may, at its discretion, discontinue this policy. On the dissolution of this policy, all remaining funds in individual Scout accounts will be returned to the Troop General fund and/or the Troop Scholarship fund.

2. Ownership and Transfer of Funds

2.1. All money raised through Troop sponsored fundraisers is the property of Troop 595, Tipton, Indiana

2.2. The Troop Committee will be responsible for the distribution and disbursement of all monies held in Troop accounts

2.3. Money credited to Scout accounts will be held in a bank account owned and controlled by and for the sole benefit of Troop 595

3. All funds held in a Scout’s account shall be transferred to the Troop 595 Scholarship fund when the Scout, for any reason, terminates his membership in Troop 595

4. Accounting and Reporting

4.1. Troop 595 will establish and maintain accounting procedures which properly credits and accounts for funds raised in accordance with this policy

4.2. The Troop committee will receive a report not less frequently than twice a year describing the distribution and disbursement of funds under this policy. This report shall describe, in detail, funds applied to individual Scout accounts, and the sources of these funds.

5. Usage of Scout account monies

5.1. Monthly activities
   5.1.1. Camping
   5.1.2. Field trips
   5.1.3. ETC.

5.2. High adventure trips
   5.2.1. Philmont
   5.2.2. Seabase
   5.2.3. Boundary waters
5.2.4. Jamboree
5.2.5. ETC.

5.3. Scouting related gear

5.4. Payments to council

5.5. Almost anything Scouting related

6. **Deposits into the Individual Scout Account, by;**

   6.1. Fundraising opportunities

   6.2. Reimbursement from the Troop

   6.3. Direct deposit from the family

   6.4. Scouting scholarships

      6.4.1. Michael Porter Award
      6.4.2. Lynn Wyrick Award
      6.4.3. Firestone

7. **Payments and Reimbursements can be handled by;**

   7.1. Indicating on a camping or troop activity permission form to use Scout account as payment

   7.2. Providing a receipt for valid purchases, as indicated above

8. **Funds Transferred Back to Troop**

   8.1. Outstanding fees owed to the Troop at the end of the year

   8.2. Scout is no longer active (One Year)

   8.3. Correction of accounting errors

**Troop Financial Assistance**

Requests for assistance that would result in a negative balance in a Scout account will usually be denied. Special cases will be considered by the Troop Committee. Parents, it is your responsibility to ensure that Scouts do not have a negative balance in their Scout account.