

A graphic for the 'Invest in Character 2024' campaign. It features a textured, light brown background with various icons: a red compass rose, a blue rolled-up map, a red and black striped hat, a black silhouette of a person on a globe, and a black silhouette of a person with a torch. The text 'INVEST IN CHARACTER' is in large, bold, red letters, and '2024' is in a yellow box. The Boy Scouts of America logo and 'PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL' are in the bottom right.

INVEST IN CHARACTER

2024



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL

2024 Invest in Character Information Guide

GENERAL INFORMATION

During the year, the districts in the Pathway to Adventure Council will conduct an Invest in Character Campaign. It is conducted by district and unit volunteers to give all families the opportunity to support the Scouting program in which their children are a part.

Who Pays for Scouting?

The youth members – Cub Scouts, ScoutsBSA, Varsity Scouts, and young-adult Venturers – and their parents pay their share. Unit dues and unit projects meet expenses for supplies and activities in the Cub Scout Pack, ScoutsBSA Troops, Varsity Scout Team, and Venturing Crew. The member buys the uniform, handbook, and personal equipment, and pays camp fees.

Chartered organizations provide meeting places and volunteer leaders to work with youth in the neighborhoods they serve.

Financial resources for the local council are provided by the Invest in Character campaign, endowment funds, special events, foundation grants, project sales, product sales, United Way, and bequests.

The registration fee and Scouts' Life subscription help support the national organization that makes Scouting available.

This method of financing Scouting has been time-tested and proven effective because it involves different entities.



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Family Invest in Character FAQ:

- 1. The Boy Scouts are supported by the United Way – Why do they want my money?**

You are correct that the council benefits from the local United Way Campaign. However, their allocation represents only 6% of the council budget and is shrinking annually. Your support through the IIC Campaign will provide the services not funded by the United Way.

- 2. Scouting is too expensive already --- look at how much a uniform cost, and then we must buy the handbooks and pay to go to the training courses.**

Uniforms are not inexpensive, but they are high quality. The training course fee basically covers the cost of the give-away materials. It doesn't include the cost of the audiovisual aids and equipment and other materials used to conduct these important training programs.

- 3. I give my time as a leader and the parents get nicked for uniforms and a lot of other stuff --- let other people pick up the slack.**

We appreciate your services as a leader; that is the strength of Scouting – a quality program made possible by many dedicated volunteers. It's natural that, just like a church, those that are the closest and most active best understand the benefits of the program and support it financially also.

- 4. It costs over \$300.00 a week to send my child to summer camp the sleeping bag and all the other equipment needed is not cheap. Give me a break!**

The fee a Scout pays for summer camp only covers part of the cost – essentially the cost of his or her meals, expandable program materials, and the summer camp staff. The other costs like building insurance, ongoing maintenance, utilities, and the ranger's salary are included in the council's operating budget.



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2024



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5. The parents in my unit don't want to give.

It has been our experience that, when the needs of the council are explained, many parents are willing to make a financial contribution. We are just asking for the opportunity to tell the story and then let the parents make their own decision.

6. Every meeting for the year is already planned – can't work you into the schedule.

All we are asking for is 15 minutes. Certainly, you can fit that into your meeting schedule.

7. Can we pick another date rather than pack meeting night?

Our experience has shown that there is better attendance at the regular pack meeting. Parents have the pack meeting in their schedule. The 15 minutes needed for the IIC presentation won't prolong the pack meeting that long.

8. We don't want to bother the parents – we'll write you a check from the unit treasury.

The objective of the IIC program is to educate and inform the parents about the council's program and financial needs. This can only be accomplished when we are allowed the opportunity to make our brief presentation. It is not a hard sell presentation. No one will be put on the spot and embarrassed. The money in the unit treasury was raised by the Scouts and parents to help underwrite the unit's program expenses.

9. We sell popcorn. What more do you want?

We appreciate your support of those programs and the direct benefits the unit receives by your participation. Scout Family IIC is an opportunity for those parents who are willing and able to make a personal financial contribution in support of the council program.



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HOW DOES A UNIT BENEFIT FROM A COUNCIL BUDGET?

The Council Helps in Administration of a Unit By:

1. Handling registration and Scouts'Life Subscriptions.
2. Maintaining a supply of literature, insignia, forms, certificates, etc.
3. Provides four Camping properties that are used for year-round use by Cub Packs, ScoutsBSA Troops, and Venture Crews.
4. Keeping a record of training and advancement of each volunteer and Scout.
5. Producing monthly newsletters
6. Producing notices, minutes, and agendas for all types of meetings.
7. Handling thousands of phone calls from unit leaders, parents, and visitors for information related to their programs.
8. Providing, without charge, dozens of regular and special forms, certificates, and recognition.
9. Producing district and council calendar schedules, program kits and other aids to unit leaders.
10. Making hundreds of reservations for summer camps, camporees, jamborees, training courses, Explorer activities, annual district dinners and meetings, Philmont, troop leaders and den chief events.
11. Maintains unit accounts.



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Assists the Unit Leaders with Professional Services By:

1. Providing service of a full professional staff.
2. Helping through person-to-person counseling of relationships and operational problems.
3. Giving full guidance to all committees, commissioners, roundtables, training courses and special activities.
4. Working with institution heads on unit problems.
5. Maintaining complete and frequent contacts with all community resources, churches, clubs, government sources, etc. Aiding in securing facilities and park recreational areas, use of buildings for special affairs, picnics, camps, and swimming facilities.
6. Providing the units with district and council activities to supplement its program.
7. Giving full guidance to volunteers to help with setting up and conducting various kinds of activities in which units participate.
8. Giving full guidance to volunteers to organizing camporees and other events, absorbing financial loss where they are not self-supporting.
9. Working in various council community groups to arrange for Scout participation in civic affairs, citizenship day, etc.
10. Recruiting and maintaining a corps of commissioners who, in turn, supervise three units each by means of unit visitation.
11. Providing educational and relationship programs to help the leader.

A graphic with a tan background featuring a red dashed line path with 'X' marks. At the top is a rolled-up blue map. On the left is a black silhouette of a person climbing a rock. On the right is a circular inset showing a person rappelling. The text 'INVEST IN CHARACTER' is in large red letters, and '2024' is in a yellow box. The Boy Scouts of America logo and 'PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL' are in the bottom right.

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Reminder The Pathway to Adventure Council is the only legal entity that can receive tax exempt contributions for the Scouting Program. Units cannot solicit funds nor grant tax exemption for funds received.

2024 Unit Incentive

If a unit meets or exceeds their goal, 10% of their achieved goal will go back to the unit through Program Bucks'. **Unless the donation is a recurring monthly, semiannual, or quarterly payment. Payment must be paid in full 30 days after the presentation to receive the 10%.**

PTAC Program Bucks

Invest in Character program Bucks can only be used for the following experiences and must be used by the end of 2024.

- Owasippe Scouts BSA Resident camp
- Rencker and Betz Family Camp
- Webelos Camp at Owasippe
- All local district events (PWD, Camporee, Klondike Derby, and Cub Scout Fun Day) that require online registration
- PTAC NYLT Courses
- National Order of the Arrow Conference
- PTAC Day Camp/ Cub Scout Fun days

Invest in Character Program Bucks cannot be used for non-Council/ District events or local unit activities that do not require online registration through the blackpug event registration system. Program bucks **cannot** be transferred to a unit account.