

# Changing Charter Expiration Dates for Entire Council to December and BSA Registration Shared Services (RSS) FAQ

## **Q: What are the benefits of making this change?**

A: There are numerous benefits to making this change:

- Increased efficiency in processing of applications and charters. Applications throughout the year and charters at renewal time are to be processed in 72 hours.
- RSS will print, assemble, and mail charter certificates, rosters, membership ID cards, and Internet Re-chartering information (along with access codes) to unit leaders much quicker than previous years.
- Streamlined registration processes because we have single communication plan to the entire council regarding re-charter cycle
- Single fee structure as opposed to the 3 different structures we have to all keep straight now. Units can now collect fees for current youth and new youth (in the fall recruitment time) at the same time and be ready for re-chartering to occur in October/November before the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline (although it is encouraged to be completed before Thanksgiving) to avoid holidays.
- Increased Scout retention because a new youth will register in the fall and pay for the rest of that year PLUS the following years charter which we hope will keep that boy that may be on the fence at the holidays to stick around for Pinewood Derby, summer camps, Blue and Gold Banquets, etc that typically occur after the new year.
- Time savings for the council which will allow field staff, unit and district volunteers, and support staff to spend time doing other tasks and not be focused on re-chartering from September-May.
- Defective applications and tracking will be done by the registration shared service team at the National Office and status updates will be communicated to the council.
- Increased quality, efficiency, and consistency of data entry and record keeping.

## **Q: What districts will be changing their expiration date?**

A: Five Rivers, Boonslick, Osage Trails, and Kinderhook.

## **Q: Are there any changes to Black Diamond, Grand Prairie, and Mark Twain Districts?**

A: No.

## **Q: How does this change effect my unit?**

A: For the effected units, you will re-charter this cycle like normal, but you will pay a prorated fee for 2015 since you will expire in December and not January or February, depending on the unit. Units that currently expire in January will pay \$22/person and February units will pay \$20/person for BSA registration.

## **Q: Other than the fee structure change are there any major changes for me as a unit leader?**

A: Other than when you will complete your re-charter each year beginning in 2015, no, there is no other major impact.

**Q: When will I have access to complete my re-charter online this year? And next year?**

A: THIS YEAR: Osage Trails, Grand Prairie, and Mark Twain-October 1  
Five Rivers, Kinderhook, and Osage Trails-November 1  
Boonslick-December 1

NEXT YEAR: October 1

**Q: If I am a January or February unit now, does that change how I re-charter this year?**

A: No, you are encouraged to get them done as quickly as possible but as long as they are in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in which you expire and are mistake free, you are good to go.

**Q: In 2015, when will my unit expire?**

A: All units in the council will expire December 31, 2015, which means that all re-charters need to be completed and error free by December 15<sup>th</sup> to allow time for them to all get processed by the expiration date.

**Q: I heard that there was no longer going to be a 60 day lapse period for units that did not get their re-charter turned in on time, is that true?**

A: That is true, the BSA is eliminating the lapse period, which means once your unit reached their expiration date, if they are not re-chartered they stand to have to halt all meetings, not be covered on BSA Accident and Sickness Insurance, the youth will no longer be able to achieve or receive rank advancements or awards from activities, lose their tenure/history, and possibly have to complete all new applications both youth and adult and new unit paperwork to be chartered for the following year.

**Q: Was this change made in the best interest of Scouting?**

A: Absolutely. Our function as a council is to provide our units, chartering organizations, parents, youth, and communities the highest level of quality support and service possible and with this change alone we are able to improve efficiency in numerous areas making us stronger and more customer oriented in the end with much clearer lines of communication.

**Q: If I have additional questions, who do I call?**

A: Your district executive is your direct line of support for all issues. You can contact them by calling the GRC Service Center at 1-800-SCOUT-LAW or on their mobile devices.