



2026–2027 TROOP FEES POLICY LETTER

Effective: Program Year 2026–2027 | Version 2: August 8, 2026

1. Purpose

This policy letter establishes the fee structure for Troop TX-1525 for the 2026–2027 program year. All fees are derived from an itemized budget analysis keyed to actual program costs, including campout food, awards and recognition, program supplies, rocketry, Derby car participation, and a modest contingency reserve. This document is intended to give every family a clear, honest accounting of what fees cover and to serve as the troop's standing reference for fee-related questions.

2. 2026–2027 Fee Schedule

Annual fees rates by membership category are as follows:

Membership Category	Annual Fees
Woodland Trail (WT) Trailmen	\$121.00
Navigators / Adventurers — First-Year Member*	\$224.00
Navigators / Adventurers — Returning Member	\$157.00
Dads (adult membership)	\$52.00

***Note:** First-year NAV/ADV fees include a one-time cost for a Trail Life Standard (\$50) and the Navigator/Adventurer handbook (\$17). These items are not charged in subsequent years.

3. Itemized Budget Detail

The table below provides full line-item transparency for each membership category, with each cost mapped to a specific program cost.

Woodland Trail (WT) Trailmen				
Category	Budget Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Line Cost
Campout Food	Full-troop campouts (All American + Trail Junction)	2	\$17.00	\$34.00
Program Supplies	Supplemental branch item (first aid kit, etc.)	7	\$5.00	\$35.00
Recognition & Awards	Branch/star patch, 7 branch stars, Worthy Life award	1	\$35.00	\$35.00
Rocketry	Group model rocket kit & supplies	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Derby Car	Individual Worthy Derby car kit	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Troop-Level Awards	General recognition (troop-wide)	1	\$2.00	\$2.00
Contingency Reserve**	Operational buffer	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
WT Trailmen — Total Annual Fees				\$121.00

Navigators / Adventurers (NAV/ADV) Trailmen - First-Year Member				
Category	Budget Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Line Cost
Campout Food	Full-troop campouts (All American + Trail Junction)	2	\$17.00	\$34.00
Program Supplies	Supplemental program items, est. \$25/semester	2	\$25.00	\$50.00
Recognition & Awards	1 rank/year + 3 core pins	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
Rocketry	Individual model rocket kit & supplies	1	\$11.00	\$11.00
Derby Car	Individual Worthy Derby car kit	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Troop-Level Awards	General recognition (troop-wide)	1	\$2.00	\$2.00
Standard	Trail Life Standard (walking stick)	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
Handbook	Navigator/Adventurer program handbook	1	\$17.00	\$17.00
Contingency Reserve**	Operational buffer	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
NAV/ADV Trailmen (First-Year Member) - Total Annual Fees				\$224.00

Navigators / Adventurers (NAV/ADV) Trailmen - Returning Member				
Category	Budget Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Line Cost
Campout Food	Full-troop campouts (All American + Trail Junction)	2	\$17.00	\$34.00
Program Supplies	Supplemental program items, est. \$25/semester	2	\$25.00	\$50.00
Recognition & Awards	1 rank/year + 3 core pins	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
Rocketry	Individual model rocket kit & supplies	1	\$11.00	\$11.00
Derby Car	Individual Worthy Derby car kit	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Troop-Level Awards	General recognition (troop-wide)	1	\$2.00	\$2.00
Contingency Reserve**	Operational buffer	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
NAV/ADV Trailmen (Returning Member) - Total Annual Fees				\$157.00

Dads				
Category	Budget Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Line Cost
Campout Food	Full-troop campouts (All American + Trail Junction)	2	\$17.00	\$34.00
All-Dads Meeting	Light meal / refreshments for all-dads gathering	1	\$6.00	\$6.00
Derby Car	Individual Worthy Derby car kit	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Troop-Level Awards	General recognition (troop-wide)	1	\$2.00	\$2.00
Contingency Reserve**	Operational buffer	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Dads - Total Annual Fees				\$52.00

** The contingency reserve (approximately 3–5%) is retained to absorb minor cost overruns, price increases, or unforeseen program needs during the year. Any unused reserves carry forward into the following year's budget planning and reduce pressure for future fees increases.

4. Fees Policies

4.1 Payment Due Date

Annual fees are due in full at or before the start of the program year, or upon registration for new members joining after the program year opens. Participation in troop events and activities is contingent upon fees being current.

4.2 Proration for Mid-Year Joiners

Members who join during the first semester (fall) semester, are subject to the full fees amount, described above.

Members who join in the second semester (spring), are subject to a prorated fees amount described below:

- Prorated fees for Campout Food, Program Supplies, Derby Car and Rocketry - based on missed activities.
- Full fees assessed for all other items.

NOTE: The spring semester prorated amount will be determined by the end of the fall semester each program year.

4.3 Refund Policy

Fees are generally non-refundable once the program year is underway. In cases of documented hardship, a family may petition the troop committee chair for a partial refund or credit. Such requests are evaluated case by case and are not guaranteed.

4.4 Transfer Policy

Fees paid to Troop TX-1525 are not transferable to another troop. Members who transfer out of TX-1525 during the program year are not entitled to a fees refund, as costs (awards, supplies, food reservations) are committed at the start of the year based on anticipated enrollment.

4.5 Financial Hardship

No family should feel that financial constraints are a barrier to Trail Life participation. Scholarship assistance, payment plans, or service-in-lieu arrangements may be available. All such arrangements are handled with full discretion by the troop scholarship committee (Troop Ministry Liaison, Troop Committee Chair, Troop Treasurer).

Families experiencing hardship should fill out the [online scholarship application form](#).

4.6 Annual Review

This fee schedule will be reviewed annually by the troop committee prior to each new program year. Adjustments will be made as needed to account for inflation, changes in program offerings, vendor cost changes, or shifts in troop size. Families will be notified of any changes before registration opens for the coming year.

5. Items Not Covered by Troop Fees

The following costs are separate from troop fees and are the responsibility of individual families:

- National Trail Life USA membership registration fees (paid directly to national)
- Individual campout or event registration fees beyond the two full-troop campouts (All American Campout and Trail Junction)
- Optional merit-based or specialty program fees
- Personal gear, uniforms, or specialty equipment

Families will be notified in advance of any optional costs. No member will be surprised by unannounced charges.

6. Recommendation & Authorization

This fee schedule has been developed collaboratively by the TX-1525 troop committee and is recommended for adoption effective program year 2026–2027. It reflects an honest, line-item-driven approach to fees that is transparent to families, sustainable for the troop, and flexible enough to accommodate the growth of our program.