



Watermark Community Church
Dallas, Texas

Troop Financial Policies 2026-2027

Train yourself for Godliness - 1 Timothy 4:7b

Member Costs – The following is a breakdown of initial and annual costs. Costs are reviewed annually and may change each program year.

Youth Trailman Registration Fee	\$43.00 (annual) paid to Trail Life Home Office via TrailLifeConnect
Adult Registration Fee	\$46.50 (annual) paid to Trail Life Home Office via TrailLifeConnect
Fundraising Obligation	All Youth Trailmen are expected to participate in the fundraising activities of the Troop.
Troop Dues per Youth Trailman	\$100.00 (annual) – detailed below, paid directly to the Troop
Brand Authorization Renewal	\$20.00 (annual) per Youth Trailman, to be covered with fundraising
Trailman Handbook	Woodlands Trail (Fox–Hawk): \$17.00, covered by Troop Dues Navigators & Adventurers: \$17.00, covered by Troop Dues
Youth Trailman Uniform	\$55.00+ (cost dependent on total items purchased); a family only purchases again when a Trailman has moved up a level (new shoulder loops ONLY) or has outgrown his shirt/pants
Adult Uniform	\$35.00+ (cost dependent on total items purchased)
Volunteer Handbook	\$17.00 – one time purchase
Special Events (optional)	Information will be shared through TrailLifeConnect or the Troop Discord Channel for special event opportunities and what charges may apply.

Registration Fees & Brand Authorization Renewal

Trail Life spends far more than \$43/\$46.50 per member registration fee annually to provide the TLUSA Program. The annual registration fee covers the processing of member registrations, background checks for Volunteers, and group liability coverage provided for both Youth Trailmen and Adult Members. The remaining cost to provide the Trail Life Program comes from the assessment of the Brand Authorization Renewal which is \$20 per registered Youth Trailman paid to Trail Life Home Office annually by the Troop. The Brand Authorization Renewal covers the development of new curriculum and Program relationships; the maintenance of Trail Life's website and TrailLifeConnect (online registration and advancement tracking system); as well as the member services provided to each Troop through the Trail Life Home Office. The recommended way to raise the money for this fee is through fundraising.

Troop Dues

The Troop Committee sets annual dues for each Trailman to fund the Troop's operating budget. Troop dues help cover most campsite fees, advancement pins and badges, patrol meeting supplies, one Trailman Handbook per level, ceremony refreshments, craft supplies, leader recognition, office supplies/copies, and subsidized event fees. A Troop Budget is reviewed by the Committee and approved prior to the beginning of the Program Year. The Troop is funded through annual dues and member fundraising. Questions about the budget may be directed to the Troop Committee.

Fundraising Policy

Fundraising is an essential activity for the success of a Troop. Funds raised support the Troop Budget, cover the Brand Authorization Renewal, and help reduce out-of-pocket costs for participating families. Therefore, each Trail Life Member is expected to participate in this effort. Fundraising also gives Trailmen opportunities to develop leadership, communication, marketing, and other valuable life skills.

Each year, the Troop Committee reviews the Troop Budget and sets the fundraising goals for the coming year. The Troop may fundraise as a whole for the operational budget and/or Patrols may raise funds for a particular project or trip. The Committee strives to keep fundraising to a minimum. If fundraising goals are met early in the year, additional fundraisers may not be necessary. All families will be notified of the financial status of the Troop on a regular basis.

From time to time, the Troop Committee will provide fundraising incentive levels that may assist troop families with out of pocket expenses for activity fees, outdoor experiences, or uniform items. Trail Life USA is recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Because of IRS regulations, fundraising proceeds cannot be credited to individual "Trailman Accounts" for personal benefit. Doing so could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of both Trail Life USA and our Charter Organization.

Reimbursement & Receipts Policy

Patrol Guides may spend up to \$10 per registered Youth Trailman in their patrol each year on meeting supplies without prior approval. Special events and campouts will have recommended budgets communicated to Event Planners 6–8 weeks in advance. Event Planners may review and adjust those budgets with a Committee member if additional funds are needed.

All other purchases require review and approval by the full Troop Committee. Patrol Guides, Event Planners, and other Volunteers may submit supply requests, shopping cart links, or purchase requests 2–4 weeks in advance to the Treasurer and Troopmaster to be purchased with the troop card. OR you may purchase items yourself and then request reimbursement at the link below. Because reimbursement checks are issued through Watermark, processing typically takes 4–8 weeks. troopdallas.com/reimbursement/

Troop Bank Account & Debit Card

Trail Life (TL) and American Heritage Girls (AHG) share one bank account through our charter organization, Watermark Community Church. There is a single physical debit card issued for our joint account. The physical debit card will be retained by the TL Troop Ministry Liaison and AHG Troop Coordinator, since they share a household. The TL Troopmaster, TL Treasurer, and AHG Treasurer will be given the card number to use for digital purchases, and they may borrow the physical card for in-person purchases with Committee/Board approval. Any purchases over \$300 must be approved by the TL Senior Ministry Liaison, Chris Sherrod.

All troop leaders should ask the TL Treasurer about the current bank balance prior to making any debit card purchases. If a troop leader uses the debit card, they must submit a receipt via email for the purchase to the Treasurer and Troop Ministry Liaison within one week of purchase. The TL Treasurer, AHG Treasurer, and/or other leaders will partner to enter all transactions in CHmeetings and reconcile the joint bank account on a regular basis.

Benevolence Funds

Financial Assistance is available for program related costs on a case-by-case basis. Please submit your request in writing via the form below for approval by the Troop Committee; only the Troop Ministry Liaison and Troop Treasurer will be apprised of which family has requested assistance. Benevolence Funds are typically not available until after the fall fundraiser is complete. This is intended to assist with eligible expenses and generally will not cover the full cost of a fee, event, or activity. Families receiving assistance are expected to contribute a portion of the expense. ***Note:*** A Youth Trailman who registers in the fall must participate in the fall fundraiser to request support from the Benevolence Fund. troopdallas.com/benevolence

We never want the cost of a uniform to prevent a Trailman from participating. If obtaining an official Trail Life uniform for your Trailman is difficult, please speak with a member of the Troop Committee about your need. We do have a small number of used uniform items in inventory.

Troop Committee

Troop Ministry Liaison – Connor Roberts
Troopmaster – Tom Hemminger
Troop Committee Chair – Michael Edgar
Troop Treasurer – Chris Knight
Troop Chaplain – Ed Kimbowa
Senior Ministry Liaison – Chris Sherrod