



# **The Lutheran Pioneer Ministries**

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## **Program Costs**

Program costs are based on usage and preference not on numbers of boys or adults involved. There is no per boy or per adult fee. The following fee structure and amounts were set by the 2010 Lutheran Pioneer Convention delegates in April of 2010.

### **Fee Structure**

The fees include **a base fee of \$125 per year** for a chartered Train. If more than one congregation is involved in the Train the fee increases by \$60 per additional congregation involved. (Example: 1 congregation – base fee is \$125, 2 congregations – base fee is \$185, 3 congregations – base fee is \$245, etc.)

The remaining costs depend on which programs you use in your Train. The yearly fees are as follows:

Buckaroo Program (K-2)	\$100
Boy Pioneer Program (3-8)	\$125
Adventures in Christian Living Program (3-8)	\$125
Faith Full Fathers Program (3-Adult)	\$ 75
Adventure Activities (Various ages)	Costs vary depending on activity but those from active member Trains receive a discount in fees.

Example of cost: A Train consisting of a single congregation using just the Buckaroo program would have a base fee of \$125 plus the Buckaroo fee of \$100 for a total fee of \$225 no matter how many boys were involved. If the Train also had the Boy Pioneer or Adventures in Christian Living programs their total fee would be \$350.

### **Rational For International Fee Structure**

1. The membership fees are set to cover 65% of the cost of operations for the International Program.
2. The membership of the International Organization is composed of congregations sponsoring Trains.
3. The services received from the International Organization are the same no matter what the size of the congregation. However the materials provided vary with the programs that are part of the Lutheran Pioneer Ministry.
4. Members of active Lutheran Pioneer programs (boys and adults) receive discounts for materials purchased from our Lutheran Pioneer Store. They also receive a discount on Lutheran Pioneer Adventure Activity fees. Members also receive regular issues of our

magazine “*Wagon Train News*.” (An electronic version subscription in full color is free. The 2 color printed version subscription is \$8 per year.)

5. The fees are yearly fees and are invoiced as explained below. Payment is due in a timely manner.

### **Length of International Membership Year**

Your membership is for a full 12 months of the year and begins for currently active groups on September 1. For newly chartering or reactivating Trains the 12 months of membership will begin with the first of the month after we receive your registration form. In following years Trains will be invoiced for their membership in the month prior to their anniversary date.

### **Payment Plans for International Program Fees**

We offer two payment methods to assist you. They are:

1. A one time payment at the beginning of your membership year.
2. A two payment plan with the initial ½ payment at the beginning of your membership year and the second payment at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> month of your membership year.

The delegates to the 2010 International Convention approved the fee structure we are currently using. They also passed a resolution that no congregation should be kept out of the program due to the fee structure. If a congregation is having difficulty with the fees they should contact the Lutheran Pioneer Office and they will work with the congregation so that they are able to offer our program of youth ministry to their boys.

The way in which you gather your program fees can be set at the local level in whatever way works best for your Train. Your congregation may choose to fund the total cost through the church budget much as it may fund the Sunday School or other outreach efforts. You may assess a fee to each boy attending. You may choose to have fund raisers or donations to offset the costs involved or you may use some combination of funding ideas. What ever way you choose will be up to your congregation. Because the fees are not based on individuals you may find that your program better meets the needs of today’s busy families. Boys can attend for part or all of the year, they can join later or right at the beginning.

### **District Fees**

Each Lutheran Pioneer Train is placed into a District. Each District does its own planning of activities for the Trains that compose that District. To carry out communication between Trains and to conduct some of the activities, the District will often set a District Fee. The fees will vary depending on the size and activity of the District. At present, the fee that is set is communicated to the Trains by the District leadership.

## **Summary**

Based on the information supplied in this section you should discuss what programs would work best for your congregation. Your decision will depend on available volunteers, interest and commitment of the boys and their parents and what fits your congregation and community best. Keep in mind that your Lutheran Pioneer programs can serve as an outreach into your community much the same as your Vacation Bible School and Sunday School do. In fact, we encourage you to use the programs, especially the “Faith Full Fathers” program, in that way. It is the main reason we set our fees in the manner we have. We do not want “numbers” to be a deterrent to the program usage.