



DUES INCREASE: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) May 2024

Transparency and Justification:

- **Why now?**
 - Preparing a balanced budget required a practical approach to evaluation of NSP's strategic objectives, revenue streams and expenses.
 - We are confronted with three serious realities: 1) inflation impacting operations 2) shift in sponsors; and 3) failure to increase dues and course fees consistently over the years.
 - Escalating costs in operations, technology upgrades, store/warehouse and facility maintenance, and personnel have eroded the purchasing power of our revenue.
 - As we look to the future of NSP and the every-changing industry, it's more important than ever that we invest in technical training, education, resources, and support on a long-term basis.

- **Why is membership dues increasing, and how will the additional revenue be used?**
 - With rising operational costs, including essential investments in training courses, technology upgrades, and personnel, we are increasing our dues to meet NSP's expanding needs and to make improvements.
 - We are investing in infrastructure (systems upgrades), products (courses and materials), and people (membership, staffing, leadership development).

- **What is the new dues breakdown?**
 - Dues account for only 46% of NSP's budget.
 - We reviewed our membership structure and adjusted the dues to better fit different needs:
 - General Membership dues will be \$100.
 - Professional Division will be \$80.
 - Alumni Membership dues will be \$60.
 - Affiliate Membership will be \$600.

- **When is this effective?**
 - Updated membership dues will be effective July 1, 2024.
 - Please note that NEW members should wait until July 1 to pay their dues for member year 2025, which will be valid through December 2025.
 - This change will go into effect roughly around the same time as the launch of the new OEC Hybrid flagship course and the 2024 refresher – just two examples of the many investments that NSP is making in its educational offerings.

- **How was the amount of the increase determined?**

- After careful consideration and analysis, we confirmed that a modest increase in dues would help us continue to invest in our members' training and education.
 - We also have taken steps to minimize costs while still ensuring the sustainability of our training programs in the long term.
- **Are you planning to increase membership dues each year?**
 - We will evaluate expenses and investments on an annual basis.

Impact on Value:

- **What additional benefits will I receive for the increased dues?**
 - We are proud to offer these recent and additional benefits:
 - New OEC Hybrid Course: Refine rescue skills with the new (June launch) innovative course, with in-person and online components.
 - New Skills Courses: Expand your skills with the recently added Bike 1 Patrol Basics, Outdoor Risk Management (ORM), and Instructor Development (ID) Student hybrid & online courses.
 - Elevated Refresher Courses: Stay current with the latest techniques and knowledge with modernized refresher courses, free of charge.
 - New Partnerships: Take advantage of new pro deals from Mammut, ARCTERYX, Twiceme, Kahtoola, GovX, and ID.me, among others. Up to 40% off adds up fast for these desirable and expensive brands.
 - NSP is continuously adding member benefits. Explore them all on our [Member Benefit](#) page.
- **What other value does NSP bring?**
 - NSP continues to invest in its ability to provide world-class education, training, and resources to support the patrolling and mountain sports community.
 - Placing a higher value on NSP membership is a step toward our future sustainability, enabling us to continue investing in our education and training efforts long term.
 - NSP prioritizes safety, but our organization's spirit is in the camaraderie, connection, and bond that patrol teams experience both locally and nationally.

Alternatives and Communication:

- **Were there any alternatives to a dues increase considered?**
 - We understand that an increase in membership dues may cause concern, and we want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly.
 - We also have taken steps to minimize costs while still ensuring the sustainability of our training programs in the long term.
 - In addition to dues, NSP continues to invest in its partnerships and other funding streams, but membership remains an important component of our financial model.
- **How far in advance were members informed of the dues increase?**
 - Members were notified of the increase on May 14, approximately six weeks before the increase becomes effective.

- **How will the increase affect my ability to renew my membership?**
 - You can renew your membership the same way as in previous years.

- **Is there an opportunity for members to provide feedback on the dues increase?**
 - Your feedback is crucial.
 - We understand you might have questions or concerns, and we are here to listen.

See Member Benefits page for More Information on Benefits.