

Youth License Support – Subsidizing FCC Fees for Non Profit New Applicants Under 18

Moved: Director Baker
Seconded: Director Hipsisley
Director Jairam
Director Zygielbaum

Whereas,

A fundamental purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

Whereas,

Licensing for the Amateur Radio Service has no age limits and demonstrates practical and enjoyable applications of Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics. This attracts young people to amateur radio and to potential careers in STEM. Several Board members have followed this path.

Whereas,

Established youth groups, including Scouting, Inc., (formerly Boy Scouts of America) have established educational merit badge and award programs which lead to the ability to take and pass an FCC Examination for an Amateur Radio license; in 2019, over 1,000 young people were licensed in Scouting programs.

Whereas,

In late 2020, The Federal Communications Commission in *Report and Order FCC 20-184* established a fee of \$35 for all new amateur radio license applications. This puts a burden on nonprofit youth organizations that serve a segment of young people where costs have heretofore been low. Some of these programs will not be able to continue this program without financial assistants.

Whereas,

These programs have also typically used non-ARRL Volunteer Examiner organizations which do not charge a testing fee, providing little to no ARRL exposure to these new licensees.

Whereas,

The Board believes that the recruitment and training of young amateur radio operators is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL and that the \$35 fee will reduce the number of new amateurs that otherwise would be lost from these groups

It is accordingly resolved that:

- (1) With prior approval from ARRL Staff, ARRL affiliated, 501(c)(3) Charitable Organizations which have an established a Youth Program for Amateur Radio to pay the \$35 FCC Fee outright upon the passing of an amateur radio examination by an applicant who, at the time of testing, has not reached their 18th birthday, that will result in that applicant's initial amateur radio license, provided that organization use the ARRL VEC testing organization.
- (2) For applicants who meet the criteria specified above, the VEC fee shall be reduced to a total of \$5, all of which must be paid to the ARRL VEC;
- (3) Organizations using authorized ARRL volunteer examiners for applicants that have reached their 18th birthday may test according to the VEC rules and fees in place, but the FCC fee nor the VEC will change in any way.
- (4) This plan will be limited to the first 1,000 applicants in 2021.

Cost:

Assuming 1,000 applicants

Direct payment of FCC Fees:	\$35 x 1000	\$35,000
Loss in Revenue to VEC (@ net expectation of \$10/licensee)		\$10,000

Total maximum cost in 2021		\$45,000
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Return – 1,000 new amateurs that have been exposed to ARRL