



SCOUTS STAND OUT.

Greater St. Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

FAQ's

Does the money stay in my District?

Response: Our Council serves nearly 47,000 youth each year. In order to be sure all youth have access to the programming, the donations are not necessarily given directly back to your District, however, your District receives equal program opportunities with everyone else.

How much money does the National Council get?

Response: Of your FOS donation, no money goes to the National Council. All of the money we raise here stays local.

Can I tell you where to designate my donation?

Response: We love hearing stories about what part of Scouting means the most to you! While you are certainly able to designate your gift, our Council leadership works with our volunteers and families each year to identify the areas of greatest need for the Council and we hope that you will make a general donation in order to provide the best Scouting experience for all youth

What is the true cost of Scouting?

Response: Scouting varies based on the level of participation. An average cost for most youth is around \$200-\$250 and this does not include camping or additional activities. Can you afford to do more to help others? What is your Unit doing to help offset the cost for your families?

Bankruptcy – is the Council financially stable?

Response: We know there has been a lot of press lately about the Boy Scouts. Please know that the Greater St. Louis Area Council is its own 501(c)3 and manages our own finances separately from the national organization. We are proud to have a very stable budget and a robust endowment. It is critical to us to continue to provide quality leadership opportunities for our local youth and feel strongly that we are in a position to continue to do so.

Sexual assault – are there local cases?

Response: We know there has been a lot of press lately about the Boy Scouts. First and foremost, it is important for you to know that we believe the victims and we immediately turn cases in to local law enforcement. The majority of the cases you are hearing about are from decades ago. Our current youth protection standards are some of the strongest in the country. We pride ourselves in making the safety of our youth our number one priority.

Covid 19—What are you doing to keep Scouting going?

Response: Weekly Scouting challenges, virtual science experiments, camp kits to participate in the camp experience at home, virtual merit badge clinics, camps open to families / units.



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Dispelling the Myths

Myth: I am already giving too much already.

Response (to an individual): Can you afford to do more to help others?

Response (to a Unit): What are you doing to help offset the cost for your families at the Unit level? - Product sales & Fundraisers

Myth: I only support locally. Or My donation isn't kept local. Or I don't understand where the money is going.

Response: By just giving to your local unit, you do not open up the Scouting opportunities for others. By giving to the Council, you broaden the *access* to Scouting to the bigger community.

Myth: Donating won't benefit me on my taxes.

Response: Actually, the recent CARES act allows you to write off up to \$300 on your taxes if you don't itemize. If you itemize, you can write up to 100% of your adjusted gross income.

Myth: I already give to...

Response: I am so glad you are aware of supporting such a great organization. Here is why supporting the Scouts helps our community... Or You have already bought into the Scouting program by paying your dues and sending your kids to camps. Thank you! The *Scouts* should also be an organization YOU give to as well.

Myth: I cannot afford a donation.

Response: Your donation doesn't have to be a big one. Can you give something? Or did you know you can pay your FOS donation over *time*, allowing for a bigger impact?

Myth: I am already giving my time/talent/treasure to my Unit.

Response: Thank you! We appreciate people like you who step up and recognize a need in the community! Because you are seen as *a* leader in your Unit, would you consider becoming a leader in the FOS campaign by making a gift today?

Myth: We had a bad presentation.

Response: I'm sorry to hear that; I want to make sure that doesn't happen again. I would also be happy to share with you all the benefits of the FOS campaign and we can discuss how the campaign impacts the Council, *our* District, and even our Unit.