

2023 Friends of Scouting Campaign

Commonly Asked Questions

- Q. How do I mark the brochure if I am writing a check?**
- A. Indicate the total amount of your contribution on the pledge line and enter the amount of the payment included. If they are different, you will be billed for the balance. Be sure to indicate your preferred billing frequency.
- Q. Is contribution tax deductible?**
- A. Absolutely. You will be mailed an acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.
- Q. Can I mail in the brochure?**
- A. We prefer you turn in your pledge card tonight or make your donation online by scanning the QR code on the back of the pledge card. You can fill in your pledge card included in the brochure and return it to your presenter to be included in the unit report tonight.
- If you scan the QR code on the back of the brochure to make your gift, please turn in your pledge card to the presenter with your name and note indicating you made your gift online. This will help our staff know to look for your online contribution!
- Turning in your pledge card tonight will also save a phone call later to see if you plan to contribute. Remember, you can make a pledge tonight and pay your pledge later.
- Q. Should every family in my unit give to FOS?**
- A. Every family in each unit in the council should have the opportunity to hear from a volunteer representative of Three Harbors Council about the Friends of Scouting campaign and determine for themselves how much they are able and willing to give through the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Q. What happens if I can't give at the Family level of \$180? Does that reflect negatively on me or my family?**
- A. Each family can give at different levels, at, above, and below \$180. Contributions of ANY amount are welcome. No youth or family is looked upon differently due to contribution level.
- Q. What should I do if I can't contribute this year?**
- A. Please fill out your pledge card with your name, contact information and a \$0 in the donation amount and turn it in tonight. When this is turned in, it will indicate to the staff at the council office not to follow-up with you this year. It will not permanently remove you from future year asks for Friends of Scouting gifts.
- Q. Are there individual recognition items available this year?**
- A. Yes. We continue to give the magnet for any donation amount, patches at the \$200 and \$400 levels and coins at the \$600 level. New this year for donations of \$1,000 or more, we are giving a special recognition medallion. Patches and coins will be distributed at a later date, either by mail or personal delivery.
- Q. Is this a one-year contribution? Or do they keep billing me?**
- A. This is a one-year commitment, based on a calendar year of January to December. We will return annually to ask you to renew your commitment.
- Q. When will they bill me?**
- A. The cycle and the month you indicate to start, determine the billing. If quarterly is chosen to start in January, then you will get a bill in January and every three months after that for a total

of four bills. All periodic billing is scheduled to end by December, so the later in the year you begin periodic billing, the shorter the time between billings.

- Q. *I have children in both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA. Do I have to contribute to both programs?***
- A. No, many families face the same issue. Most simply donate in one level and mark the other card as “already donated.” Some families split their donation and give some in each unit. It’s your choice.
- Q. *I am a volunteer and give my time. Why should I give my money too?***
- A. Thank you for making a significant personal commitment to the Scouting program by contributing the time you give to make the Scouting program available for the youth in this unit. Your financial contribution as a volunteer helps Three Harbors Council maintain lower direct costs to you and your Scouts that would otherwise be higher without personal donations such as yours. Without Friends of Scouting, event fees, camp fees and other program and usage fees would be higher than they are with a successful Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Q. *Why am I being asked to make this contribution? I paid my child’s \$75 BSA membership fee.***
- A. The entire BSA membership fee of every member, youth and adult, is passed on from each local council to the national council. Your membership fee funds the operations of the national council to provide program development and guidelines, safety and legal support to BSA members and councils, and national promotional campaign material. This contribution is made locally and stays locally in this council to support programs and services offered by Three Harbors Council.
- Q. *How is Scouting funded in Three Harbors Council?***
- A. Foundation support, special events, popcorn sales, program fees, United Way, and Friends of Scouting giving.
- Q. *Doesn’t my United Way contribution cover this?***
- A. Unfortunately, no. United Way is a great program that helps many other organizations besides Scouting. The allocation to Scouting, as mentioned earlier, generally amounts to approximately 17% of our budget. We can only ensure that Scouting remains strong if we, the families involved, step up and put our dollars where they will count – directly into Scouting through Family Friends of Scouting. So, please, contribute here as well.
- Q. *Will my Friends of Scouting contribution be used to fund the settlement in the national BSA Chapter 11 proceeding?***
- A. Contributions through the Friends of Scouting program are used for day-to-day operations including program and camp supplies, communication tools, membership recruitment, and staff needs among other things. They will not be used to fund Three Harbors Council’s contribution to the settlement in the national BSA Chapter 11 proceeding.
- Q. *I heard Three Harbors Council is selling a camp. Why should I make a Friends of Scouting contribution?***
- A. Camp operations have been and continue to be a fundamental component of the Boy Scouts of America program. As Three Harbors Council evaluates its camp properties, it is important to know that our year-round camp operations are supported by Friends of Scouting and other sources of income to the council. Making a Friends of Scouting contribution helps the council maintain financial strength across all day-to-day operations, including camp operations and upkeep, every day of the year.