

“Friends of Scouting Script”

Thank you for inviting me to your meeting tonight.

(Optional) First, let me congratulate all the boys who are earning their _____ rank advancements/belt loops & pins/merit badges tonight. Great job!

My name is _____

I am a Scouting volunteer in _____ (troop/pack/etc.), just like the your leaders here in Pack/Troop _____(Unit number).

(Presenter tells a little about the impact scouting on him/her and son)

The reason I am here tonight is to talk about the annual fundraiser for the Boy Scouts called the “Friends of Scouting” Campaign. Monmouth Council serves over seven thousand young people and three thousand leaders through our scouting programs, training, activities and camps.

Every Council is required to raise the money needed to pay for these programs.

But, what you may not know is that the registration fees or dues that you pay every year DO NOT go to Monmouth Council. A small portion goes directly to the National BSA Office and the rest stays in your unit.

So how does Monmouth Council raise the money needed? A large portion comes from the “Friends of Scouting Campaign.” In 2012 our operating budget will be over one point seven million dollars (\$1.7 million). It costs the Council \$156 per scout to support the programs and camps your Scouts use.

Where does the FOS money go?

- **Supports our two camps**, Quail Hill & Forestburg, and the Council Service Center.
- **Training programs** for leaders, scouts and volunteers – such as Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leader Training, Wood Badge, Den Chief Training, and National Youth Leadership Training
- **The Scouting Trail** Newsletter, website and e-news
- **Camperships** for kids who can't afford to go to camp
- **Staff** to support and provide the materials you need to grow scouting in your unit, and across the county.

If you have sent your Scouts to our camps at Quail Hill or Forestburg, or participated in any of our council activities such as Family Camp, Water Day, or Scout Camporees, you know first-hand the value of supporting Scouting in Monmouth Council.

So, how can you help? Show your support for keeping a vibrant Scouting program in your community by making a pledge tonight. Only you know your financial situation and how much you can contribute...But we need \$156 per scout to continue to provide quality Scouting programs for your boys.

Your pledge, which is tax deductible, can be made by check, cash, credit card, or by simply marking off the amount on this envelope or pledge form and Monmouth Council will bill you. (Show the form and say you/scouts will be collecting these in a few minutes.)

- Every person who turns in a pledge card tonight, no matter the amount of the pledge, will receive this NEW Monmouth Council Car Magnet (**show magnet**)... AND...All who have made some payment by March 31st, will be entered into a drawing for a luxury suite Blue Claws Game night.
- For supporting one Scout at \$156, you will receive a special collector's Council Shoulder Patch (**show patch**).

- If you are feeling even more generous, there are several recognition items for other contributions levels listed on your FOS Brochure.

If your company uses a matching gift program, or if they participate in what we call a Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP), you can easily increase your donation. These programs count towards your Unit's goal. A partial list of companies is on the FOS Brochure. Contact your Human Resource office to get the details on how you can apply for these programs, or contact your District Executive.

** Please put the name of your company on your pledge envelope and write VIP or Matching.*

- When your unit achieves its Friends of Scouting goal which is \$_____, your unit may qualify to earn a free weekend camping site or two hours of BB, Archery or Pool time!

We hope every Scouting family in this room will show how much Scouting means to you and your son by pledging some level of support tonight. We need 100-percent family participation.

Please fill out the envelope/pledge form and our Scout volunteers will pick them up in a few minutes. *Remember, you need to turn in your pledge tonight to get the Magnet.*

Thank you again for giving me this time, and for helping to ensure a great Scouting future for Monmouth Council.

Not part of the script – informational purposes, in case you are asked

Breakdown of the \$156:

- 41% to activities, camp and special programs. (\$63.96).
- 53% to provide unit services, recruitment materials, training, advancement record keeping, newsletter and more (\$81.12).
- 7% for administration, service center and national fees (\$10.92).