To the parents and guardians of [Pack/Troop],

At our upcoming [Event], our [Pack/Troop] will receive our annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) presentation which invites families to financially to support scouts in the Northeast Illinois Council.  This letter contains some information to help you understand what the FOS program supports and why we ask for 100% participation. Our [Pack/Troop]’s 2019 FOS goal is [$]. This goal is based on previous participation and the total number of scouts in our [Pack/Troop]. Please consider how much your scout and other children will benefit from Scouting when making your decision. Here is your opportunity to make a difference in a child’s life. Your gift can help a child develop lifelong skills, become an engaged citizen, and accomplish extraordinary personal milestones in their journey through Scouting.

Here are a few great videos that highlights what our council provides.

* [1 Minute](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyObwoSc5kE&feature=youtu.be)
* [4.5 Minutes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDUdw7_TDvA&feature=youtu.be)

I would like to address some frequently asked questions:

* Don’t my annual dues support scouting?
  + Our dues only cover the national registration fee ($33), Boy’s Life ($12 if your child receives it), and any additional dues cover activities and supplies. Our annual dues do not go to the Northeast Illinois Council. 40% of the Northeast Illinois Council’s budget comes from direct support.
* Where does my Friends of Scouting donation go to?
  + Camperships (camp scholarships) for Scouts and families in need.
  + Membership dues and startup funds for new units in low-income areas.
  + Operating costs and maintenance for three Council Camps: Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation, Camp Crown, and Camp Oakarro.
  + District & Council programs and activities including Merit Badge Day, Klondike, Boo Camp, Summer/Day Camps, Cubmobile, and others.
  + Adult leader training, including one-on-one trainings with packs and troops as well as council-level trainings including training days.
  + Camp staff training: our camp staff are trained to provide fun and safe activities for our youth while adhering to Youth Protection guidelines.
* How much does the Council need?
  + It costs the Council $384 per year to support one scout, so we ask families to consider giving this amount.
* What if I cannot pledge at this recommended donation level?
  + We understand that not everyone can give at this level. Please keep in mind that any amount that you can donate will help keep Scouting viable and local in our community. If you cannot pledge this year, please still turn in your pledge envelope so that the Council can track pledges and refrain from contacting you accidentally.
* Does our [Pack/Troop] benefit from my pledge?
  + Yes, there are multiple recognition levels we can qualify for if we raise our goal by certain deadlines:
    - Gold Level Honor Unit: We raise our goal the night of the presentation [NOTE: if your unit goal is over $8,000, please change this to “by May 1st”]

Recognition: 5% of total dollars raised are deposited back into your unit account at the Scout Shop

Free rank advancement patches through May 15, 2020

* + - Silver Level Honor Unit: We raise our goal within 30 days of the presentation.

Recognition: 3% of total dollars raised are deposited back into your unit account at the Scout Shop

Free rank advancement patches through May 15, 2020

* + - Bronze Level Honor Unit: We raise our goal by April 30, 2019

Recognition: Free rank advancement patches through May 15, 2020

* How do I donate?
* You will receive a FOS pledge envelope at the [Event]. Please consider making your pledge at our [Event] to maximize our unit benefits.
* You can donate in one of two ways:
  + - **Make a pledge**. Making a pledge means you don’t have to pay on the night of the presentation. You can select to be billed later for your donation.
    - **Text to Give or online giving.** At the event, you will be given a card with a number you can text to give your credit card information securely. You can also donate online **now** at [neic.org/donate](file:///C:\Users\eprymula\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\368C6ZV0\neic.org\donate). Select the [District name] District, and then select [Pack/Troop #]. Make sure to share the link with your friends and family!
* Check our matching gift site [neic.org/match](file:///C:\Users\eprymula\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\368C6ZV0\neic.org\match) to verify if your employer matches your gift.
* Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes, acknowledgment of your donation will be provided by mail before the next tax season.

Please remember that your generous gift will ensure the continuing growth of our Scouts and other Scouts in our Council. On behalf of [Pack/Troop #], thank you for your support!  If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,