

Family Friends of Scouting 2026 This Year's Update



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Using the Unit Guide & This Year's Update	Page 3
Friends of Scouting Support.....	Page 4
Recognition Program	Page 5

The key to a successful Family Friends of Scouting campaign is to educate our membership regarding the many facets of the Scouting program in Scouting America Northeast Illinois Council.

For more information, visit: neic.org/friends-of-scouting.

USING THE UNIT GUIDE & THIS YEAR'S UPDATE

The Unit Guide

This Unit Guide is meant to provide each unit – pack, troop or crew – in Scouting America Northeast Illinois Council (NEIC) with a complete set of instructions on how to conduct an annual Family Friends of Scouting, or FFOS, unit-level campaign. It should serve as a resource for the person serving as the “unit coordinator” who spearheads the FFOS campaign for a unit.

The contents of the Unit Guide itself are not expected to change from year to year. As a result, a returning unit coordinator will not need to comb through the Unit Guide each year, trying to discern what has changed.

This Year's Update

However, there are some aspects of each annual FFOS campaign that may change to some extent from year to year, or even within a given year. So we will have a separate document each year, known as “This Year's Update,” that will set out those variable elements of an annual campaign. A returning unit coordinator can just review that document to understand what has changed from the prior year.

Examples of this type of variable information might include:

- Contact information for the council and district leadership for FFOS
- The means of setting FFOS goals for units
- The particular rewards available in the FFOS recognition program
- NEIC statistics that change from year to year

This Year's Update may be found by going to www.neic.org/friends-of-scouting.

FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING SUPPORT

Role	Name	Email
FOS Council Chair	Amy McJoynt	amy.mcjoynt@gmail.com
FOS Staff Advisor	Kevin Ronayne	Kevin.Ronayne@scouting.org
Aptakisis FOS Chair	TBD	
Aptakisis District Executive	Andrew Rejebian	Andrew.Rejebian@scouting.org
North Star FOS Chair	TBD	
North Star District Executive	Taylor Summerfelt	Taylor.Summerfelt@scouting.org
Potawatomi FOS Chair	Ken Morrison	Kpmtroop5@gmail.com
Potawatomi District Executive	Garret Ram	Garrett.Ram@scouting.org

The **Family Friends of Scouting District Chair** leads FOS for all units in the district. This leader coordinates the recruitment of unit FOS coordinators, ensures each unit has a scheduled presentation, and provides strategic guidance throughout the season. The Chair also works closely with district volunteers and the council development team to monitor progress and ensure goals are met.

The **District Contact** for your unit in any year will be the volunteer Scouter who reaches out to your unit to discuss running an FOS campaign. In all likelihood, your District Contact will be either the FFOS District Chair or an FFOS District Vice Chair for your district.




How the District Team Supports Your Unit

- **Scheduling & Logistics Support:** Your district team helps coordinate all FOS presentation dates and ensures each unit has the information and materials needed.
- **Training & Resources:** District FOS Chairs and Vice Chairs provide training for unit coordinators, including messaging, best practices, and step-by-step instructions for running a successful campaign. They also supply updated collateral, scripts, videos, QR codes, and online giving information.
- **Campaign Strategy & Goal Setting:** Your district FOS team works with the council development team to set unit goals based on membership size, historical giving, and district needs. They help unit coordinators understand these goals and create an achievable plan to meet them.
- **Ongoing Communication:** For support at any time (scheduling, materials, training, or general questions) contact your district's FOS leadership team or the council staff advisor. Up-to-date contact information is available in This Year's Update.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The recognition program for units is designed to provide a series of achievable incentives for units to run FOS campaigns.

The chart in This Year's Update sets out the ranks, the requirements for achieving those ranks and the premium that can be earned for each rank.

Unit Goal Level	Requirements for Packs	Requirements for Troops/Crews	Premium Earned
Scout Rank 	Raise at least \$20/Scout in unit FFOS contributions	Raise at least \$40/Scout in unit FFOS contributions	One free Local Adventure Day at Camp Sol R. Crown for the unit in the next 12 months
First Class Rank 	Raise at least \$40/Scout in unit FFOS contributions	Raise at least \$80/Scout in unit FFOS contributions	Free rank advancement patches for the next twelve months
Eagle Rank 	Raise at least \$80/Scout in unit FFOS contributions	Meet or exceed the FFOS Eagle Rank goal for the unit set by NEIC (typically, \$160/Scout, but higher for select units)	Packs: Free Pinewood Derby cars Troops: Free Eagle required merit badges

Notes on Unit Goals and Premiums

1. FOS pledges must be received by June 30 each year to be counted towards unit incentives.
2. The number of Scouts in a unit, for purposes of these goals, will initially be based on the number of Scouts registered on the unit roster on November 30 of the prior year. If that number changes appreciably due to drops or adds through the end of February, the unit coordinator should reach out to the unit's District FOS Chair to reset the unit's targets.
3. An FOS donation by an NEIC Executive Board or Advisory Council member (other than district chairs and district commissioners) will be attributed to the Board FOS Campaign, rather than the unit campaign, excepting a secondary donation to the unit campaign by such a person.