

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PIEDMONT COUNCIL FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN 2021-2022

What is the Friends of Scouting Campaign?

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is an annual fundraising campaign that asks active scouting families and community members to contribute financially to support the Piedmont Council. There are no dues required to be part of the Piedmont Council. Instead, the FOS Campaign helps cover part of the costs necessary to keep the Piedmont Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Council and its programs running. If we value having a local council in Piedmont, Scouting families must support FOS annually.

How much, in total, does the Piedmont Council spend each year? How much does FOS contribute?

Piedmont Council's annual operating budget is approximately \$566,000. The 2021-2022 FOS goal is \$125,000, which will fund 20+% of the Council's expenses. The current FOS goal is consistent with those in the past several years. The COVID pandemic severely impacted the efficacy of our 2020-2021 FOS campaign, and we were only able to raise 64% of our target, though we still had most of our ongoing fixed expenses to support. ***Piedmont BSA and the Executive Board are incredibly grateful to the Scouting community for helping us to meet 95% of the 2019-2020 FOS goal, we recognize the collective challenges during 2020-2021, and are hoping to return to 100% unit family participation for the 2021-2022 campaign.***

What does the Piedmont Council do?

Piedmont BSA helps organize and put on Scouting programs such as the Cub Scout Day Camp, Twilight Camp, Pinewood Derby, the Highlander Hikes, Cub overnight camps, Scouting for Food, and Camporee. It also organizes participation in major Scouting events like the National Jamboree and high adventure summer experiences such as Philmont, Sea Base and Northern Tier. The office conducts programs and monthly Roundtables so that Pack, Troop and Crew leaders have the resources and training to provide outstanding youth experiences. Piedmont BSA pays for and manages the Council's 4 staff members, who are necessary to keep the all these programs running and coordinated with the National BSA organization. It helps with recruiting Scouts and leaders, advancement, and recognition of Piedmont's outstanding Scouting program. Administratively, Piedmont BSA supports unit registration and advancement records, while also providing support and special recognitions for Eagle Scouts. It also provides general liability insurance and supplemental health and safety insurance. Finally, Piedmont BSA provides a local touch point to allow many adult volunteers to stay active in supporting our Scouting community after their own Scouts have "graduated". (See *Notes and Resources* document for additional information)

I already made a payment to my troop/pack/crew. Doesn't that support the Piedmont Council?

No. Families pay dues to their individual units (Pack, Troop or Crew) at the beginning of the school year, and a portion goes to the National BSA. This pays for insurance and various administrative functions associated with being a part of Boy Scouts of America. The rest of your unit dues and fees help pay for unit-specific activities, equipment, and other expenses that are planned and budgeted by each respective unit's leadership team. *None of your unit dues go to the Piedmont Council!*

How does the National BSA bankruptcy and class action lawsuit impact the Piedmont Council and local Scouting programs?

In February 2020, Boy Scouts of America (National BSA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to achieve two key objectives: to apologize to victims and equitably compensate those who were harmed during their time in Scouting, and to continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come. Our Piedmont BSA is legally separate and distinct from the national organization, and fully controls all of our own assets. Piedmont BSA strives every day to ensure the safety of youth in our care.

How much are you asking families to contribute?

The Council's operating expenses average approximately \$500 per youth. We ask each Scouting family to consider making a contribution of \$300 per youth towards that cost. More importantly, we hope that every Scout family will participate in the campaign at the financial level they feel comfortable with. Some may be able to give more and some less. ***The key is participation***; if every family makes a donation, we will be assured of strong programs delivered locally and well supported by Piedmont BSA.

Where does the FOS money go? Does any of it get into the programs directly?

Yes. The FOS funds you contribute go directly to Piedmont Scouting's activities. Since we are independent from the national organization, the funds we raise remain right here in our community.

What does it mean to keep the Piedmont Council independent?

Remaining local and independent enables the Council to be responsive to the needs of families in our immediate community. It provides a “face” to Scouting and “boots on the ground” professionals in our city that isn’t present in larger Councils, and allows experienced Scouting alumni to continue to contribute their time and talent to our council and youth. Please note that every Council has a Friends of Scouting Campaign.

Is my contribution tax deductible?

Absolutely, the Piedmont Council BSA is a registered 501C3 Corporation (Tax ID #94-1156325). Your contributions to the Council are fully deductible!

Do some employers provide matching gifts?

Yes, and these matching gifts can double the value of your contribution. Please check with your employer to see if it offers a matching contribution and submit the forms. Let the FOS Coordinator know about this matching contribution program, so we’ll know to credit it to you and your unit. Use the following link to check if your company participates in matching contributions.

https://www.matchinggifts.com/bbscouting_iframe

Can I make pay my Friends of Scouting pledge monthly?

Yes, it’s easy! A donor can simply select the Monthly donation option on our website and add a credit card. The \$300 requested contribution can be set up as a very manageable \$30 each month during the school year.

<https://www.piedmontbsa.org/give/donate-now/>

How can I make a one time donation?

You can donate online at <https://www.piedmontbsa.org/give/friends-of-scouting/>, or send a check made out to “Piedmont Council BSA” and mail to Piedmont Council, 10 Highland Way, Piedmont CA 94611

How can I get more information?

Please feel free to contact Piedmont BSA Executive Board FOS Coordinator Lisa Reynolds at lisareynolds440@comcast.net. Or contact Kate Benson in the Piedmont Council office at 510-507-4519 or katherine.benson@scouting.org

IMPORTANT NOTES & RESOURCES
PIEDMONT COUNCIL FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN 2021-2022

Dear Friends in Scouting,

There are several recent developments that deserve some additional context. Please find below more detailed information on the following topics:

- *Piedmont Council Scout Executive*
- *Scout Programming during COVID – “What Does the Council Office Do?”*

Additional Notes & Resources

- **Introduction to Kate Benson, Piedmont BSA Scout Executive + Meet the Council Office**
 - **Kate Benson, Scout Executive** Kate joined the Piedmont Council in November of 2020. She is the chief executive officer of the council responsible for the administration, financing, marketing, motivation, recruiting, and staffing required for successful council operations. She works closely with the board and council committees. Kate and her husband Neil have two children, Kajsa in Troop 11 and Anna in Pack 5. She has worked for the BSA in various councils for over 18 years. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, reading, and rowing.
 - **Laural Fawcett, Registrar and Trading Post** Laural has been with the council for nearly three years. She manages the council trading post and often serves as the first contact with the council office. She also takes care of registration and advancement questions, and drafts the council newsletter. Outside of work, Laural enjoys hiking, spending time with family, and exploring her community.
 - **Herb Schmidt, Finance Admin** Herb joined the council team in February, and is responsible for accounts payable and receivable, account coding, monthly financial reports, maintaining our donor database, thank you notes, and more. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, cycling, and spending time with family.
 - **District Executive TBD**

- **Piedmont BSA during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Highlights from 2020-2021:**
 - **Scouting in a global pandemic.** COVID has been incredibly disruptive to many and unsettling for most, especially our youth, who have experienced academic, extracurricular and social dislocation. Piedmont BSA and Packs/Troops/Crews have continued to support & encourage youth throughout the pandemic in achieving their Scouting goals.
 - **Piedmont BSA recognized 20 scouts that achieved the rank of Eagle in 2020, equaling the number from 2019.**
 - **Piedmont BSA Council and the Executive Board successes during a challenging 2020-2021 year:**
 - Successfully transitioned council leadership to Kate Benson, Piedmont BSA Scout Executive
 - Restructured the tree lot for online ordering & social distancing; built an online commerce website to support tree lot sales
 - Secured PPE loans to support ongoing council operations, which closed the gap on fundraising shortfalls
 - Worked through various initiatives/meetings/documents to best position and advise Piedmont BSA on national restructuring
 - Provided ongoing support for the Celebration of 100 years of Scouting in Piedmont
 - Guided our expansive Executive Board in setting up an action orientated Strategic Plan for council operations in 2021-2022
 - Ensured continued programming opportunities during social distancing including virtual Twilight Camp, digital Den meetings, online Eagle Boards of Review, and home based, family focused recognition programs (Flatten the Curve & Community Service)
 - Supported Scouting for Food for Piedmont BSA and facilitates cross council coordination with recipient food banks
 - Operated a convenient local trading post selling handbooks, merit badge books, rank advancements and award recognitions (saves unit leaders from traveling to Pleasant Hill or San Jose!)