



# 2026

## FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

# GUIDEBOOK



## **Join the Friends of Scouting Campaign: Invest in the Future of Scouting**

The Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is more than an appeal for financial support—it's an investment in Scouting's future.

National membership fees and basic registration only cover a fraction of the cost required to provide high-quality programs, maintain camps, and offer essential volunteer training. Without our members' and families' support, our council's infrastructure, programs, and volunteer efforts are at risk, threatening the foundation what makes Scouting such a transformative experience for our youth. Your contribution ensures that we can continue providing camp scholarships, keep camp fees affordable, maintain our camp properties, enhance volunteer training, and support the vital Scoutreach programs, guaranteeing that every Scout, regardless of background, has access to life-changing opportunities.

### **Why Friends of Scouting Matters**

Greater Los Angeles Scouting serves more than 10,000 Scouts annually across 72 cities, and financial support from individuals like you is crucial in sustaining the resources, facilities, programs, and leadership that make Scouting possible.

Like a unit, the council raises money to support its infrastructure, programs, and activities, and fills the funding gap between the fees we charge our members and the cost of operating the council. Your generosity helps us recruit new members, support district leaders and volunteers, and grow our community by providing tools to further the mission of Scouting.

The annual FOS campaign is the easiest way to support Scouting. It is a tax-deductible donation made directly to the council that helps provide the necessary resources to operate the council.

### **How Unit Involvement Makes a Difference:**

The success of the FOS campaign depends on our members' families sharing the story of Scouting and informing others about how their contributions directly benefit our Scouts.

We ask that each unit makes a presentation to its families. We'll provide the resources you need, including a short script, pledge cards, a handout, and a video to show, either by sending out via email, social media, or at a meeting. We need a representative to collect contribution forms or share a QR code or website link and ensure they're submitted to your Unit Coordinator within 48 hours.

## **The Role of an FOS Campaign Presenter:**

- Be a financial supporter of the FOS Campaign
- Make a compelling ask to a unit or units for support
- Report progress and return any donation forms within 24 hours
- Share any questions or concerns with council staff
- Celebrate the end of the campaign with us and help distribute recognition prizes.

**People are motivated to give when they are personally asked and when they feel connected to the cause or the person who asks them for a contribution.** Rather than setting a specific lower donation amount, it's more effective to ask for any amount someone can contribute to support our mission. People want to give, and they want to feel good about doing so. Your story about Scouting can help someone feel good about why they, too, should support FOS.

## **Unit Presentations**

It's essential to be organized before a presentation. Words are powerful. While a script will be provided, sharing a personal Scouting story to help the unit connect with why they should give to Scouting and the council. Remember to emphasize that this is an opportunity for everyone to contribute to Scouting's Future in Greater Los Angeles.

A presenter should:

- Wear their uniform to show support for Scouting or whatever is most appropriate for the unit they are presenting to.
- Have the contribution form and/or QR code ready, and encourage attendees to fill them out at the end of the presentation.

## **Online Giving & Matching Gifts**

For convenience, donors can give online through the FOS donation link. Additionally, many employees offer matching gift programs that can double or even triple contributions. Be sure to mention this during the presentation.

## **Friends of Scouting Video**



## **Recognition for Support**

Greater LA Scouting believes in showing appreciation for our FOS donors. As a thank you for their support, every contributor will receive a recognition pen.

## **Unit Recognition**

Units that participate will receive a ribbon, with a unique 100% participation ribbon award if every family in the unit contributes.

- White Ribbon - For FOS unit participation
- Red/White/Blue Ribbon - For 100% unit participation

## **Individual Giving Levels**

Scouts who participate will receive a Council Shoulder Patch for 2026.

- Sapphire Level (\$25-\$149): 2026 FOS CSP with Standard Design
- Gold Level (\$150-\$424): 2026 FOS CSP with Gold Border
- Platinum Level (\$425 and above): 2026 FOS CSP with Silver Border

## **Wrap Up**

After a unit presentation, collect any pledge forms and tally them on the tracking document, and be sure to turn them into the Cushman Watt Scout Center immediately. If any families have any questions, please be sure to have them get in touch with the Unit Coordinator or the Interim Director of Development at [development@greaterlascouting.org](mailto:development@greaterlascouting.org)

## **Follow Up**

Please report the results of presentations within 48 hours and return to the Unit Coordinator. This will help us maintain momentum and track our overall progress. We are excited to hear about the outcome of the presentations.

# Friends of Scouting Campaign Timeline

**January - December** | Friends of Scouting Annual Campaign Runs

**January - March** | Friends of Scouting District Leadership Identified and Materials Prepared

**April** | District Roundtable & District Committee Meeting Presentations by Council Staff and Leadership

**May** | Unit Presentations & Family Giving Appeals

**June** | FOS Checkpoint

**September - November** | Fall Unit Giving Campaign

**October - December** | Council FOS 2026 FOS Planning

**December 1** | Giving Tuesday

**December 31** | Last day for 2026 Tax-deductible contributions.

## Ready to make a difference?

Visit [GreaterLAScouting.org/FOS](http://GreaterLAScouting.org/FOS) for resources, updates, and to get involved today!

## Friends of Scouting Tool Kit

### FOS Table Tents

- [El Camnio Real District](#)
- [Exploring Division](#)
- [Metropolitan District](#)
- [Pacifica District](#)
- [Pio Pico District](#)
- [Rose Bowl District](#)
- [San Gabriel Valley District](#)
- [Greater Los Angeles Scouting](#)

### Unit Donor Tracking Sheet

### District Presentation Sign Up Form

