

Council President's Article

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Cinnamon Rolls and Friends of Scouting

Last November my twelve-year-old granddaughter calls to talk about how great school is going. She is in 7th grade in Georgia. Hum, something must be up because what middle school student calls to talk about school! As John and I listened, we finally got to the reason for the phone call. She explained that there is an opportunity for her to go on a school field trip to go to New York for a special science lab. And she wanted to know if we would "chip in \$600 for the trip". The phone goes silent on our end but being the savvy grandparents that we are, our response was "We will get back to you". Here is what we decided. Yes, we would help her out BUT she needed to have some "skin in the game". We offered to match up to \$300 of what she earned. Her \$300 and our \$300 would give her the needed \$600 for the trip. Marianna accepted the challenge.

Here is what she decided to do - make and sell cinnamon rolls! Five cinnamon rolls to a pan with either icing or cream cheese frosting and all for \$10, including delivery. So, she made a sign saying, "Help me get to NY" and described what she was doing. She took a picture and posted it on her mother's Face Book page since she is too young to have her own account. Well, within days she had 30 orders! The plan was to make and delivery the cinnamon rolls over two weekends. She had it all figured out, knowing that one batch made 5 pans of cinnamon rolls. She even figured out how much each pan cost to make and what her profit would be. In the end, she ended up with over 46 orders and finally had to say, "No more orders". And yes, she made all the cinnamon rolls and she did the cleanup. And she even paid for dinner one night. In the end, she made \$ 367.86 profit. We are very proud of our granddaughter!

So, you may be asking why am I telling you this story? Well, from January through March all our units have someone conduct a Friends of Scouting (FOS) presentation. That presenter can come from the unit or from their district. So, in other words, someone is coming to your unit to ask for money. Sound familiar? Did you know that FOS funds about 25% of the Council's operating budget? The Council Executive Board (all volunteers like you) work on raising the other 75% through special events like our Council Auction and Clay Shoot, camping, grants, etc. You can check out the FOS brochure for more information.

Just like my granddaughter, our families need to feel ownership of the program in which they participate. That field trip was very important to Marianna. How important are trained adult leaders to you? What about our Everett and Bellingham Service Centers? How about our fabulous camp? What about the registration and record keeping done for our Scouts. How important is it that you have a trained, professional District Executive to help us with recruiting, training, supporting, mentoring and encouraging our adult volunteers? How important is Scouting to you?

My granddaughter first made a plan and then worked her plan. Every family is different. Please take the time now to plan out how you are going to financially support Scouting. I am sure when she first made that phone call she thought we would say yes. But we challenged her. Marianna learned some valuable lessons and I know she will appreciate her field trip even more knowing she made it happen. You make Scouting happen on the ground and the Mount Baker Council needs your financial support. I would like to challenge your unit to have 100% of all your families make an FOS contribution this year. The amount is less important than having every family participate. And invite your chartered organization to donate too!