



Key 3 Perspectives



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Council President

Voice of the President

A Scout is Thrifty...

It's Friend of Scouting (FOS) time of year. Your Pack, Troop, Crew or Ship has probably already set a date for someone from the district to come and give the annual FOS presentation. However, you may be wondering why we do this every year. Doesn't the Council have enough of its own money? Well,

let me tell you why I support FOS.

First, Scouting changes lives. The values of Scouting are more important today than ever before. Our Scouts are leaning to respect one another, to respect our country and to respect himself. We teach our Scouts how to be independent. They learn to plan and prepare for campouts and to pack a backpack with everything you'll need for a 50-mile hike. And without mom's help! Community service is also a huge part of Scouting. We are teaching our Scouts about serving others unselfishly. I think you get the idea.

The second reason I support FOS is that I want to have some personal ownership in Scouting. My troop has monthly dues. Scouts often bring several dollars a month for dues. The Scouts and parents know that this is money the Scout should have earned himself as he learns the important lesson of paying his own way, rather than getting a hand out from mom or dad. Yes, we do conduct fundraisers and other activities to support our troop but who ultimately supports us from behind the scenes? It is the Council that supports my Scouts and my Troop. They make sure Scouting is available in every neighborhood. They make sure there are strong Cub Scouts Packs that provide us new Scouts each year. They train our leaders and provide camp programs and activities we could not do ourselves. I have a desire and responsibility to support an organization that puts its youth first and provides the needed resources to everyone.

Finally, every week as we recite the Scout oath, we say "...a Scout is Thrifty". On the Council level, it costs \$190 to provide the program to one Scout for one year. Did you know that is only \$15.83 a month? I was trying to think about what I could spend \$15.00 on month. Well, on Amazon I could by some Flashing Finger Rave Gloves for 13.99. Or I can get four coffees at Star Bucks' and I am sure two can dine at McDonald's for \$15.00. So when you break it down, Scouting is one of the best values in town. More importantly, you are practicing the values of Scouting when you make your donation to the FOS Campaign. Think about what Scouting has done and will do for you, your Scout, your family and your community. And then consider what you can budget this year for Scouting. Make your donation accordingly.

I would like to do a very special shout out to Troop 4084. Every year this troop sets an FOS goal. It's goal is to be a FOS Presidential Unit, but more importantly is that the Troop Committee sets a goal of having 100% of families and registered leaders participate in FOS. To them, whether you give \$20, \$200 or \$2,000 - every donation is important. And last year Troop 4084 was a Presidential unit with 100% of families and all registered leaders donating to FOS! WAY TO GO!

Thank you in advance to all the leaders, families and community folks who support the Mount Baker Council with an FOS donation. You are shaping the lives of thousand of scouts. Just a reminder that the Mount Baker Council remains debt free and continues to operate in the black. Your Council Executive Board are outstanding stewards of your financial contributions. I made my FOS donation and look forward to your support of Mount Baker Council Scouting through your own FOS donation.

