



Vermont Character Co-op Frequently Asked Questions

FOR FAMILIES

1. I've been a regular Friends of Scouting (FOS) donor. Does this program replace that campaign?

Yes. Traditional FOS campaigns have requested a once-a-year donation. We seek to build a culture of sustainable giving that can be easy to access, more far-reaching, and provide some level of certainty to Green Mountain Council's budgets. This program is modeled after a Co-op membership and provides benefits to those who participate that include Scoutshop and camp discounts. Families opt in to provide a sustaining monthly contribution at scoutingvermont.org/partner via credit card or e-check payment.

2. How do I get my Family Partner camp discount? When my unit pays for camp, how will it know to deduct my Co-op credit?

Co-op Family Partners enjoy New England's most affordable flat rate for Green Mountain Council Resident Camp (*refer to pricing chart found on registration page*). Green Mountain Council will adjust the balance due for every Scout in the household to this fee on/before June 15 when final camp payments are due. Credits for each Scout will be shown in the registration portal and reflected in the total balance due.

Newly registered Scouts and their families, or those who decide to attend camp after June 15, will also be able to join the Co-op and enjoy this rate.

3. What if our family signs up for the Co-op after the unit has already paid the camp full fee?

Families will receive the camp discount when they sign up for the Co-op as late as the day prior to the start of their camp session. The discount will be refunded or credited.

4. Can a family make a 1-time payment of \$180 (\$15 per 12 month) instead of in installments to get its family benefits?

Yes. Families who wish to pay their Partnership Pledge on an annual basis with a one-time gift will enjoy the benefits if they register a sustaining commitment at the \$180 or more annual level. Please contact Arlene Matheson at 802-244-5189 to help register your annual recurring pledge or contact 592_executiveteam@scouting.org for more information. Partners are free to change or cancel sustaining gifts at any time.

If an individual or community leader doesn't want the family benefits, then he/she can submit a one-time gift through their unit's Partner Portal.

5. Will a donor that gives a one-time payment of \$300 (\$25 per 12 month) or more receive a YETI Rambler?

Yes, provided they elect to become an annual sustaining Partner.

6. Will FOS patches be available this year?

Yes. We want to show appreciation to all of our donors. A patch will be mailed for any gift (\$5 minimum). Patches (and the 20oz YETI Rambler® for donors at the \$25/month level) will be awarded via mail on a quarterly basis for those who qualify.

7. What are the “family discounts on products and service from local business Co-op Partners”?

This is an ongoing process. Community Partners will be announced through the newsletter, at live events, and published at www.scoutingvermont.org/partner.

8. If we become a family sustaining member right before camp with a sustaining gift of \$15 or more a month, is there a penalty for interrupting our monthly payment after camp?

A Scout is Trustworthy and Loyal and the Council remains hopeful to forge a more holistic relationship with its Partners to make Scouting sustainable for more Vermonters. We appreciate that sometimes circumstances change and if you need to pause or revisit your pledge please contact Arlene Matheson at 802-244-5189 at any time.

Remember that by dropping you can also hurt the unit’s aim of reaching its goal, and it impacts the camping and programming support of the Green Mountain Council.

FOR UNITS

9. How does a family’s contribution get credited to our unit?

Pledges are made through your unit’s Partner Portal at scoutingvermont.org/partner. Pledges returned via mail are automatically credited to the family member’s primary unit. Please contact Arlene Matheson at 802-244-5189 if you have any questions or need to make a change.

10. How are the Unit Partner Goals determined? When do the rewards take effect?

Units have historically had an FOS goal, and reaching the goal reaped the reward of free cloth rank badges. This remains in place in this program, with additional unit rewards including free off-season unit camping.

The unit’s goal is set with the expectation of 1/3 of its recharting Scout families join as sustaining Co-op Partners with a pledge of \$15 per month. A unit qualifies for the Unit Partner rewards as soon as the unit reaches that goal, or when equivalent one-time gifts are committed, or any combination of the two. Your unit’s progress toward goal is shown in the pledge Portal. Unit goals and benefits reset on January 1 each year.

EX: Troop 500 had 10 Scouts in 9 Scout households after completing its charter renewal. Troop 500's Partner goal is \$540 (3 families x \$15 per month). The Troop would enjoy year-round Partner benefits by securing any combination of recurring or one-time gifts that totals \$540.

11. How are families in multiple units handled? We have several families with Scouts in both Pack and Troop. How is their family's contribution credited between the units?

The entire family enjoys the Family Partnership benefits once it commits to a total sustaining gift of \$15 per month. If a family would like to support multiple units as they strive for their Unit Partnership goals, that family is encouraged to allocate its recurring Partner Pledge among those units.

EX: The Coolidge Family has a Scout in Pack 802 and Troop 802 and is interested in becoming a \$15 per month sustaining Partner. The Coolidge Family could choose to make a sustaining investment of \$7.50 per month at both unit Portals, or allocate its pledge in any ratio that it feels would best benefit both units (minimum gift is \$5).

Be sure your pledges are made through the units' pledge Portal, and indicate in the notes section for each unit that you are contributing to both Pack and Troop for a combined total of \$15.

12. If a unit meets its goal, but not until later in the year (e.g., after camp) will it receive a refund?

To be clear, the camp discount through the Co-op is PER FAMILY, not per unit. It is unrelated to the unit goal. A family must have paid its first installment and have an active Partnership subscription in place before the first day of their camp session to enjoy the Co-op Partner rate. If the unit has already paid for them, a refund will be issued.