

Fundraising Policies of the Boy Scouts of America & Central Minnesota Council

From time to time it is important to review the fundraising rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.

Article 11, section 1, clause 2 of the BSA bylaws, rules and regulations:

Contributions shall be solicited in the name of the Boy Scouts of America only through or by the authority of the corporation and shall be limited to the national or chartered local councils. In accordance with these by-laws and rules and regulations, youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money for chartered organizations, for the local council or in support of other organizations. Adult members and youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money in support of personal or unit participation in local, national, or international events. Youth members, however, are permitted to secure sponsors for council or district activities approved by the Executive Board. These approved activities may result in financial support for the local council in accordance with the by-laws and rules and regulations of the corporation.

Bottom Line: Direct solicitation by Pack, Troop or Crew leaders of cash donations from community businesses, individuals, service organizations, etc are in violation of the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the Executive Board has allowed solicitation of cash gifts from the unit chartering organization to support unit program. Also, they have approved the solicitation of goods (spaghetti, for example) in support of a unit fundraisers. Materials for an Eagle Scout service project would fall into this category. Packs, Troops and Crews raise their needed funds through approved product sales and fundraising events, and payments from member dues and family support. Unit fundraising activities require a money earning application approved in advance by the Council Executive Board.

Rationale: Local Boy Scout councils are not allowed by the BSA to assess Scout membership fees. The membership fee (currently \$15 annually) is deposited with the national organization, not local council. It costs this council annually \$195 per traditional Scout to provide a scouting program. The local council collects this revenue from activity fees, special events, popcorn sale and direct solicitation of support from community business, individuals, scouting alumni, service organizations, and others. This annual budget is developed and approved by a volunteer Executive Board.

Local Packs, Troops and Crews do not exist without the local council. The local council provides many services to unit leaders and Scout members; including, but not limited to: Accident and liability insurance coverage, camp and main office facilities and program, unit record keeping, membership recruitment support, trained staff to support unit leaders, and much more.