



November 2, 2008

Dear Unit Leader:

I wanted to thank you for all your leadership and effort to bring Scouting to the youth of Vermont. You are making a difference in every life you touch and for that you should be proud. Scouting is a partnership between all sorts of organizations and individuals. That partnership is what makes our program so strong.

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce a new program to strengthen the partnership between your Unit and the Green Mountain Council. We are calling it the "Gold Star Unit Program". This program is to help each Unit and the Council financially. The aim of the program is to increase the amount of Family Friends of Scouting, so that both the Unit and the Council can continue to provide a quality Scouting experience.

When we figure the real cost of providing Scouting at the Council level, that cost is \$200 per Scout. Under the new Gold Star Plan, we are going to set a standard goal for each Unit. This goal will be your March 31 membership (number after charter drops) X 25% of the cost of Scouting (\$50). Our mission will be to fund Scouting in the following way:

- 25% - Family FOS Campaign
- 25% - Camping & Activity Fees
- 25% - Popcorn
- 25% - Special Events, Grants, Community FOS Campaign

Using this system, no one group is asked for more than their fair share of keeping the Scouting program to the high quality we all want. Your Unit is a major part of this program and for that you need to be a partner. Every Unit that achieves its goal will earn the following:

- Free Rank Advancements
- 10% of the FOS raised by the Unit back
- 10% Discount Day at the Council Trading Post

This program will allow all of us to provide Scouting to as many youth as possible and to ensure that the program our members are getting is done by the best volunteers available. Scouting works because of all the great individuals that work to make it the best youth program in Vermont.

Thank you for all you do and for what you will do in the future for the youth of Vermont. If you have any questions about this program, please contact your District Executive or myself. Our goal is to increase the service to your Unit and this program will help us achieve that.

Yours in Scouting,

Rich Stockton
Scout Executive

