



# **Commissioner Bulletin**

## **Why Should We Support Council Fundraisers?**



### **Friends of Scouting - Popcorn - Camp Cards**

**As adult leaders, we focus on our units and on our youth – as it should be. We tend to have a very narrow view the Scouting community as a whole. We plan our activities with little thought about the actual facilities themselves. We take them for granted far too often. What if they weren't there?**

**The Northern Star Council has incredible resources to offer. We have two, fully staffed and equipped long-term camps. We have six additional short-term camps at our disposal. We have an exceptional urban activity center. There are four Scout shops that support our needs. There are two service centers to provide our administrative support. We have a dedicated staff of over 80 full time employees that administer the Council. That's about one employee for every 400 volunteers.**

**These resources don't just magically exist. It takes money to support the infrastructure that we take for granted. The Council's operating budget each year averages \$12,700,000. That's a lot of zeros folks. While there are many revenue streams that support the Council, unit fundraisers account for over 25% of the budget. Popcorn, FOS and Camp Cards all help keep our camps, shops and service centers open for business. By supporting these fundraisers, we are supporting ourselves, our programs, our youth and our communities.**

**Popcorn and Camp Cards sales provide income to the individual Scout as well as supporting the Council. Scouts keep a large portion of the income they generate to fund their individual Scout accounts. Units also profit from Popcorn sales by receiving a percentage of unit sales. All donations made to Friends of Scouting are applied directly to the Council's operating budget. Participating in fundraising events help to build work ethic and enhances our Scouts' sense of ownership in their camps.**

**SO ... you don't want to sell Popcorn – well then, which camp do you want to close? How much do you want facility usage fees to go up? Which Scout Shop should be eliminated?**

**Scouts are thrifty and pay their own way – RIGHT?**