**Friends of Scouting Presentation Script**

***UNIT COORDINATOR:***

Each year, we invite a guest from the Council to come and talk to us about Friends of Scouting. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a volunteer Scouter and is active in our district and in Scouting as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Pack/Troop/Crew) receives important services from our council, and tonight is our opportunity to do our fair share to support the council and become Friends of Scouting.

To demonstrate this, I want to make the first gift of our unit’s campaign (give check/pledge card to representative). Last year our families gave a combined $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am hopeful this year we’ll do even better.

Now please welcome \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***FOS PRESENTER:***

Good Evening. Thank you for giving me a few minutes of your time to speak to you about Friends of Scouting. I have a Friend of Scouting unit ribbon I would like to present to you as a thank you for allowing me to come and speak to you. (*Present to Unit Leader or SPL.)*

I am here as a representative of the Seneca Waterways Council, and I am here to ask for your financial support for our programming efforts.

Every time a young person participates in Scouts, they are building fundamentals in leadership, citizenship, conservation, physical fitness and honesty. They learn how to live up to their potential. I’m sure you have already seen some of these developments in the young people in this room and that is a reason you continue to be a part of the Boy Scouts of America.

To me and my family Scouting has … *(Tell your story here – 60 seconds or less)*

Delivering the Scouting program not only takes time and resources from dedicated leaders and family members, it takes financial support. But most importantly, our program makes a difference.

Your {Pack/Troop} is part of the Seneca Waterways Council which serves five counties in the greater Rochester and Finger Lakes communities. Our Council makes sure that every young person has access to join and participate in great Scouting programs like yours. The Council maintains two outstanding camping facilities, provides outreach to our most underserved communities and most importantly, provides our volunteer leaders with the tools, training and resources to ensure that every Scout has a high-quality program. Seneca Waterways provides insurance to help with care in case one of our Scouts gets hurt, and our Council ensures that every child is able to participate in Scouting no matter what their family circumstances are.

I am here tonight to ask for your financial support toward Scouting.

In a moment, I will ask you to join with other families and make a pledge to our Friends of Scouting campaign. It is important and it is our responsibility as parents to help fund the mission that so positively impacts our children.

Our Council invests an average of $216 per year to support one Scout in the program and we ask every family to consider a pledge of that amount or more. It is 100 percent tax deductible and 100 percent impactful in the life of a Scout. These are dollars that stay local for our Scouts. It would be relatively easy to just charge every family a registration fee to join the local Council, but our programs would quickly be out of reach for many in our community. Other Councils have done this, but that is not an approach we prefer. Instead, we use Friends of Scouting as a way to hold ourselves accountable and give every family an opportunity to give.

Each of you has a pledge brochure. It has some highlights about the impact of Scouting. I’d like to ask everyone to open the brochure to the pledge card. You can make a gift tonight, or if you prefer you can make a pledge and spread the payments incrementally throughout the year.

You can also make a secure pledge online right now with your mobile device by visiting [www.senecawaterways.org/give](http://www.senecawaterways.org/give) and completing all required fields. If you do that, please return the pledge card with your name and indicate that you made an online gift.

As you consider your gift, think about what Scouting means to you right now, and what it could mean to your family in the future. We ask that you consider fully supporting the cost of at least one Scout by pledging $216 tonight. That breaks down to just $18 a month. Anyone doing so will receive a fully embroidered Friend of Scouting shoulder patch. If you are able to give more, please do so knowing it will help greatly!

If you’re like me and you prefer smaller incremental payments, consider making a recurring pledge of $20 or $30 a month. It makes a huge difference and won’t hurt your wallet.

Please take a few moments to complete a pledge card with an amount meaningful to you. Every gift counts and it’s important that every family is a Friend of Scouting.

If you work for a company with a matching gift program (or aren’t sure), be sure to indicate that on the pledge form. It’s a great way to maximize your gift and help your company support Scouting too.

I hope you’ve seen the difference that Scouting makes in your child’s life. I know the impact it’s made in mine and for my family. That’s why I personally support Friends of Scouting, and I hope you’ll join me.

It takes all of us doing our part to make this incredible program possible. On behalf of the families, volunteers and staff of the Seneca Waterways Council, thank you for your support.

THANK YOU.

*Ideally have a couple Scouts assist in collecting the pledge cards. If possible, announce the total pledge result at the end of the meeting.*