BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

Questions & Answers
about Transatlantic Council (TAC) and Friends of Scouting (FOS)

What is TAC (Transatlantic Council)?

Scouting America is organized into over 200 local councils. All but three of them serve youth exclusively in the USA. TAC is the supporting structure for over 150 Scouting units in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia. TAC units are served by six districts, and each district contains around 20-50 packs, troops, crews, and ships.

What does TAC do?

TAC delivers top-quality Scouting experiences, with unique geographic opportunities, to open the outdoors, teach skills, encourage service, develop leaders, and instill values to youth across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia. We serve every US military installation in Europe, along with dozens of international schools, diplomatic centers, and major American corporate communities. We provide a continuous path to the ranks of Arrow of Light and Eagle Scout for youth on the move. TAC has even been appointed a Custodian of Omaha Beach by the French Republic.

What is FOS (Friends of Scouting)?

FOS is the local fundraising appeal that TAC runs from December through February to help fund its annual programs and services.

What does TAC do with the funds raised in FOS?

- Programs and activities for your Scout (Participant charges for events are set at break-even for direct costs only. Indirect costs are not covered by participants)
- Employment investments for TAC professional staff and their travel costs to visit with local units and support district and council events
- Employment investments for TAC administrative staff
- Council office expenses and the Program Supply Center mail-order operations

- ➢ Insurance coverage to protect volunteers, chartered organizations, and staff—both for accident and sickness and liability insurance
- ➢ Communications costs—cell phone, internet access, website development

Why doesn't the money come from the BSA?

No money comes from Scouting America national council. Like all councils, TAC must be self-sustaining. Unless TAC is self-sufficient, there is no TAC. Almost all Scouting local councils conduct an annual Friends of Scouting appeal.

Do all FOS contributions to TAC stay with TAC?

Yes! All FOS and other financial contributions to TAC always stay with TAC, to support TAC's core mission. None of that money goes to Scouting America. Contributions to TAC support TAC's own Scouts, and TAC's own operating costs and liabilities – not the costs and liabilities of Scouting America. TAC is a separately incorporated 501(c)3 charitable organization, distinct from Scouting America.

Don't I already pay for this at registration?

Only a small part. Part of what you pay at registration is a Scouting America national fee, part is to cover your own unit's costs, and part is an "Overseas Council Fee" to TAC. To support each Scout registered in our council, TAC spends on average around $250/year – far more than the annual Overseas Council Fee that it receives at charter renewal.

How often does TAC ask for money?

- ➢ The Friends of Scouting appeal takes place each December through February, covering a key portion of the operating budget
- ➢ Camp and event fees are set at break-even for direct costs only
- ➢ TAC solicits major gifts of $5,000 and up from a small number of generous contributors, inside and outside the council, to support its long-term growth and stability

Why can't TAC just spend less?

Over the past decade, TAC's budget and staff have each been cut several times. Support in recent years from the US Department of Defense has been cut by more than half. During that time, TAC's geographic coverage has expanded greatly. TAC has only a few staff members – among the smallest team of any Scouting council – to serve over 4,000 youth in 56+ countries. There is nowhere left to cut. In fact, TAC is now investing more in professional staff, to better serve families.

TAC is a model of good fiscal governance. We carry no debt and own no property. Most of our investments goes to support programs and services.

What would my Scout lose if TAC did not exist?

All district and council programs, facilities, support, and networks would disappear. Your unit would stand alone, using the national programs. There is no unit support structure from Scouting America national council. You would lose the following:

Camps and events, run by the district and council for your Scouts:

- Normandy Camporees on Omaha Beach in France every 2-3 years, famed throughout Scouting America
- Unique Scout summer camps in the Swiss Alps (Camp Alpine), on the Adriatic Sea in Croatia (Camp Avantura), and in the African savannah near Nairobi (Camp Kenya)
- Camp equipment like tents, cooking equipment, rental of camp vehicles, canoes, equipment replacement and repair, and general upkeep of council camps
- Spring and Fall Camporees (district)
- Merit Badge Universities (district)
- Klondike Derbies (council)
- Cub Scout Day Camps and Family Camps
- Order of the Arrow programs
- National Scout Jamboree and World Scout Jamboree contingents

Full-time staff to support your unit:

- Full-time experienced staff--travelling all around the council and giving direct support to your unit leaders
- Administrative staff dedicated to servicing only TAC units, not Scouting America
- Program Supply Center in Europe and on the road in many Scouting communities for uniforms, handbooks, badges, and awards
- Support for your Eagle Scout candidates

- ➢ Guidance in the detailed operating methods of Scouting
- ➢ Among the few professionals in Scouting who understand and can deal with the challenges of supporting a Scouting program outside the USA

Hundreds of volunteers, organized by the council, who support your unit:

- ➢ Executive board members supporting programs, finances, legal and regulatory services, fundraising, membership outreach, and connections with national Scouting programs and services
- ➢ Commissioner service structure, supporting local registration, advancement, program building, charter renewal, and administration
- ➢ Roundtables of unit leaders in the district and in Transatlantic Council, coming together face to face or online to share ideas and support
- ➢ Merit badge counselors, helping your unit offer more merit badges than its own leaders can provide
- ➢ Support for your Eagle Scout candidates

Leadership training for your Scouts and their leaders:

- ➢ National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) program
- ➢ Adult leader position-specific training
- ➢ Adult leader advanced “Wood Badge” training

Do the senior volunteers lead the way?

Yes! Volunteers on the TAC executive board collectively pledged over $65,000 for each of the last five FOS appeals. One out of two TAC board members gives $1,000 or more. This financial support is in addition to the great amounts of time and skills that they contribute. They understand what is at stake and hope that every family in the council will follow their lead.

How much should I contribute?

Your gift has tremendous impact. Please consider these suggested giving levels:

GIFT	$/MONTH	GIVING LEVEL
$2,000	$200/month	8 Scout level
$1,000	$100/month	4 Scout level
$500	$50/month	2 Scout level
$250	$25/month	1 Scout level
$125	$12.50/month	Scout Me in level
$76	$7.60/month	Patriot level

Note: Each giving level reflects the number of Scouts supported annually by that FOS gift, calculated by dividing TAC's overall budget by the number of Scouts TAC serves in a year. The $/month column reflects a donor who chooses to pay monthly for a total of 10 months.

How can I pay?

It couldn't be easier!

- ➢ Online by credit card or e-check on the TAC website
- ➢ Online with a pledge (to be paid later) on the TAC website
- ➢ Check (payable to Transatlantic Council)
- ➢ Bank transfer (details upon request)

All gifts are charged in US dollars. You don't need a US dollar account if you pay by credit card online. Some companies, possibly including yours, will match their employees' charitable contributions or will make charitable contributions based on the number of hours you volunteer for a nonprofit. Be sure to check on these giving opportunities.

All gifts to TAC are tax deductible in the US. UK leadership-level gifts of $1,000 or more can also be made tax deductible in the UK (details upon request).

What are the recognition gifts, and when will they be distributed?

Upon confirmation of your FOS gift or pledge, TAC will ship the recognition item to you