



Troop 608 Flags Across America

How we raise funds so you can PAY
YOUR OWN WAY!

Why Raise Funds for Your Scouting Program?

- To learn skills necessary for success in the work world – sales, customer service, communications, and follow up.
- To develop your character – especially the traits of persistence and work ethic.
- To learn what it means to make and fulfill a commitment to others.
- To earn funds that help make your Scouting program affordable.
- To have some “life experiences” worthy of being a topic for college essays.
- Because it WILL set you apart on your college application if you can claim to have funded your own way to Eagle Scout.

What is Flags Across America?

- Neighborhood flags are posted by T608 Scouts on 7 major holidays.
- Solicit your neighbors/friends to “subscribe” and you post their flag (up to 2 days in advance, or a reasonable time in advance if you will be out of town) and remove and store it (at sunset of the day it was flown if possible).
- A donation of \$35/year (\$5/time flag is posted) is requested and usually paid in advance.
 - NEW Subscribers – Scout keeps \$25/Troop gets \$10 for materials
 - RENEWING Subscribers – Scout keeps entire \$35
 - Flags are returned to Troop once Scout is done using Flags Across America to raise funds for SCOUTING costs. No money back to Scouts – flags are ALWAYS Troop property!

What tools do I need to get subscribers? What is my investment?

- See email/Troop Website with updated electronic versions of the brochure/forms, etc.
- Modify and print copies of the brochure – for NEW customers or a letter (add your photo) for renewing subscribers. If you would like a sample letter to modify, email Mrs. Webster and request a copy of what her son uses.
- Self-addressed envelopes in case folks want to mail form back to you.
- Space to store 10 foot long flags on poles. (You will decide how many you can handle.)
- Time to go around when people are home and solicit to see if they want you to provide a flag (NEW customers).
- Time in February (and other months as needed) to follow up and get subscribers to renew. Follow up is often required.
- Time to put out flags, pick them up and store them – 7 times a year.
- Parent time to oversee your Scouts progress and advise them.

How do I install PVC in the ground?

- Discuss BEST location for flag with home owner. Be sure they have SIGNED either letter or brochure form that they really want to participate FIRST.
- Have them run a test on the zone of the sprinkler system where the flag is to be installed so you are SURE where the irrigation pipes lie.
- Have the home owner point out their desired location. Have them watch as you install the PVC. (A mechanically inclined parent is often invaluable in helping you learn HOW to install the PVC correctly.)
- Take a 1 foot length of $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC.
- Use a drill with auger, a level to ensure it is straight on the vertical, and drill the hole.
- Pound in your PVC leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ " exposed at the top so you can find it when you need to post the flag.
- Using the yard stick, measure the distance between the PVC and the curb. It is helpful to put a mark both in FRONT of the flag and to the SIDE. Where the two marks intersect is where the PVC is located. Be exact! Note this measurement on a chart. Then mark the curb using a small line or dot of paint so you can more easily find the PVC when you need to post the flag.

What are the “lessons learned” that Scouts who do FFA now can share with me?

- Tips on customer service – and the best way to “sell” a subscription.
- Tips on installing new PVC for a flag. (What to do/what NOT to do.)
- Tips on how many flag subscribers you WANT.
- Tips on how far from your home your subscribers might live – and how this impacts your time investment.
- Tips on how to CARE FOR, STORE and ensure your flags are in proper shape to be flown.

- 25 NEW subscribers = \$625 the first year, \$875 in following years.

**Summer/Winter Camp costs about \$300 (plus travel expenses) –
\$450-600/year**

Contact Mrs. Webster with questions or if you need materials!!

- Please allow at LEAST two weeks if you need more than 3 of anything!
- Replacement parts are available if hardware is rusted/corroded.
- Replacement flags are available if flags are stained/torn. (If you need a lot, Troop may need to charge a nominal fee.)
- Please make Mrs. Webster aware if you are handing off your subscribers/flags to a younger Scout.

Amye Webster, 360-770-7865 m or 281-392-0081 h or amy_webster@yahoo.com

COPY A PARENT ON COMMUNICATIONS!!