



# Troop 608 Flags Across America

How to 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.

# More Flag Subscribers = More Fun!

- 3 flags = \$105/yr
- 10 flags = \$350/yr
- 30 flags = \$1050/yr
  
- Florida Seabase cost  
= about 2 years of  
savings from 30  
subscribers



# How is my money managed?

- Monies raised through Flags Across America or other Troop Fundraisers is deposited by **YOU** into your Scout Account.
- Funds can be spent on SCOUTING RELATED expenses.
- This account acts as a custodial account to keep track of your funds. It is not your money to spend on any type of expense though. Reimbursement is limited to purchases that support SCOUTING!
- Funds pay for current expenses (not past).
- Funds that remain once your Scouting career is over (age 18) will revert to the Troop Scholarship Fund or Troop General Fund.

# What is Flags Across America?

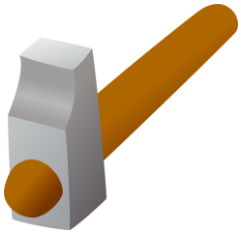
- Neighborhood flags are posted by T608 Scouts on 7 major holidays.
- Solicit your neighbors/friends to “subscribe” and you post their flag (up to 2 days in advance, or a reasonable time in advance if you will be out of town) and remove and store it (at sunset of the day it was flown if possible).
- A donation of \$35/year (\$5/time flag is posted) is requested and usually paid in advance.
  - Subscribers – Scout keeps entire \$35
  - When a new subscription is secured OR when PVC, and the flag, pole and hardware is needed, 1) Contact Flag Quartermaster to request materials and 2) your Scout Account will be charged for materials.
  - **Flags are returned to Troop** once Scout is done participating in 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 Troop Website for 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 (MS Word doc) to modify, email Mrs. Webster and request a copy of what her son uses. CC your parents on all communications!
- **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 Scout's progress and advise them. You may also need to drive them depending upon the location of their subscribers. Early on – you will need to manage the \$ and then teach your Scout how to manage his "Flag Business." (Similar to paper route of my youth.)



# What tools do I need to install and maintain flags?



# 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 1" 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 ½" exposed at the top so you can find it when you need to post the flag.
- Using a 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 Subscriber = \$875 per year.

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

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

- Please make your requests BEFORE the upcoming Flag Holiday.
- Replacement parts are available if hardware is rusted/corroded. (\$1 each)
- Replacement flags are available if flags are stained/torn. (\$6 each)
- Replacement PVC may be available for \$1/foot. If you need a lot – YOU will get to cut it!
- Please make Mrs. Webster aware if you are handing off your subscribers/flags to a younger Scout. She needs to know the # of flags.

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**COPY A PARENT ON COMMUNICATIONS!!**