Dear Scouting Friends

From the desk of Scout Executive John Fullerton

Anchored by an extraordinary $750,000 matching grant from a Southern California foundation, the Long Beach Council is launching an accelerated fundraising drive to raise the additional $1.35 million needed to fund construction of a critically important facility.

What is it we’re building?
A modern, state-of-the-art dining/meeting/training center at Camp Tahquitz which will return value on many levels.

For the first time, we will have a fully equipped structure that will accommodate all of our campers at one time, while still allowing for campsite cooking. We will be able to utilize the campyear-round, and, when not being used by the Council, rent it out to fellow organizations, which will generate valuable revenue to help support our other programs.

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But to raise $1.35 million is an ambitious goal and we will need to pull together as never before. I’m happy to say $200,000 has already come in from generous alumni.

Continued on back page
Roland Spongberg: Scouting is in His Blood

Roland Spongberg is the type of leader every organization dreams of having - his commitment and belief in the mission is rooted in life-long personal experience. Since the day he joined the Long Beach Cub Scouts in 1960 as an 8-year old, he has never stopped being a Scout. He advanced through the levels himself, raised 5 Scouts (and a Campfire Girl), served as Scoutmaster, and ultimately joined the Long Beach Council Board in 2008. When he talks about the value of Scouting, he's not giving an elevator pitch – he's talking about a part of his life that's as close to him as his own family. Indeed, what he strives to achieve on behalf of the 4,500 scouts in the Long Beach area is what any parent would want for their child. "Scouting teaches or reinforces values," he says. "Our young people have the opportunity to learn and accomplish things, achieve success through attaining merit badges, and have outdoor experiences. Our programs and facilities must encourage all of this to happen."

In his spare time, Roland Spongberg is the President of WKS Restaurant Corporation which includes such iconic chains as Denny's and El Pollo Loco. He was born and grew up in Long Beach, and today, after raising six children, he and wife Sandy still reside in the community. When he talks about the value of Scouting, he's not giving an elevator pitch – he's talking about a part of his life that's as close to him as his own family. Indeed, what he strives to achieve on behalf of the 4,500 scouts in the Long Beach area is what any parent would want for their child. "Scouting teaches or reinforces values," he says. "Our young people have the opportunity to learn and accomplish things, achieve success through attaining merit badges, and have outdoor experiences. Our programs and facilities must encourage all of this to happen."

Send a Scout to Summer Camp

Do you remember your own childhood summer camping week and what a truly transformative experience that was- being away from home, conquering your fears, making friends. Somehow, that one week sent you home feeling more confident and just a little bit older. You can give that same thrill to a young man in Long Beach by donating a Campership gift of $400. Make your Campership gift today and give the gift of an unforgettable week to a young man who may not live very far from you. To make your gift, please contact Development Director Pamela Bumgardner at (562) 427-0911, ext. 280.

What's Going on at Camp?

From top to bottom, the Long Beach Council camping program is on fire with change and renewal – starting with its first ever Camping Director, Glenn Goddard, who joined the staff in January, 2014. A life-long Scout and camper, Glenn says, "I love the camping program. Its traditions go all the way back to the Scouts’ founding and they’re as important today as they were then."

Glenn says his biggest challenge is to update the Council’s camping facilities and prepare them for the future. He’s delighted that the improvements have already been started at Camp Tahquitz with the help of the Tribe of Tahquitz. "Thanks to the Tribe Honoraries who have been doing all the work gratis," he said, "this summer the Scouts will enjoy new restroom/shower/laundry buildings, and many upgrades to the commissary, including new paint, fixtures, and floor treatments."

Thanks to Robert Waldon, Tribe Mountain Man, and Scott Fremgin, Tribe Wiseman, this summer’s Scouts at Camp Tahquitz will see new bathroom, shower and laundry buildings for the family cabins, which include a ramped entrance and wheelchair-friendly shower. Camp Tahquitz runs for six weeks from June 29 to August 8. To make troop reservations, please contact Cindy Spaulding, (562) 427-0911, ext. 211. Make a Small Gift a Forever Gift

Abraham Lincoln said, "Die when I may, I want it said of me that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow." Like Mr. Lincoln, most of us hope to plant flowers during our lifetimes that will continue to flourish long after we're gone.

Through the Long Beach Council’s Endowment Fund, families who have made Scouting a part of their lives have the chance to plant their own flowers in the form of a Planned Gift. Whether or not you already have a fully developed Estate Plan, we can work with you one-on-one, review your current situation and estate priorities, and recommend the right deferred gift vehicle for you.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund support the long-term sustainability of the Long Beach Council’s programs and facilities, ensuring they’re available for generations of future Scouts. But, the benefits of your gift start accruing immediately. Annual interest earned on the Endowment Fund helps to pay the costs of the ScoutReach Program, enabling today’s generation of young men from low-income households to benefit from Scouting at no cost. If you would like more information on the Endowment Fund, want to make a legacy gift, or wish to meet with the Planned Giving team, please call Development Director Pamela Bumgardner at (562) 427-0911, ext. 280. Plant your flower today.