

Grand Columbia Council - Boy Scouts of America

The Grand Columbia Council is at a crossroads. Scouting has a rich history in Central Washington dating back nearly 100 years, but because of financial hardships, immediate action is required. You have the opportunity to make a difference, by making a financial gift that will save the council and *leave a legacy* for the council by making a financial gift. The funds raised through all aspects of this campaign will help the council to be financially sustainable by eliminating debt, endowing the council for the future, and provide for improvements at our camps.

The Grand Columbia Council was formed April 1, 1992 by joining the North Central Washington and the Fort Simcoe Councils. With the creation of the council, four camping properties and two offices became property of the Grand Columbia Council. These properties have been a financial strain on the council.

The council has operated in a deficit for several years. This debt did not have a significant impact on the council operations at first, but has now grown to a critical level. Council management has drastically cut expenses and made extensive reductions in staffing.

In order to continue to operate and provide a Scouting program unique to Central Washington, the Grand Columbia Council must obtain a substantial amount of funds by requesting immediate support and selling properties. The council must also raise funds to endow the council, ensuring its financial sustainability in the future.

The council currently has over \$1.6 million in debt:

Debt

•Capital Loan	\$1,043,443.00
•Loan from endowment	+\$ 375,571.00
•Line-of-credit	+\$ <u>200,000.00</u>
Total Debt	\$ 1,619,014.00

The debt has accumulated due to the following:

1. Decrease in overall Friends of Scouting support.
2. Operating council camps.
3. Capital debt incurred during the Camp Fife renovation for unforeseen infrastructure improvements required to bring the camp into compliance with building codes.
4. Several years of operating deficits.

The significant cash demands required to maintain and operate the camps along with the capital debt is a burden effecting not only the Scouting program, but also the council's ability to raise funds for annual operating costs.

The council will continue to follow the ninth point of the Scout Law by being thrifty in its operation. It will also continue to build relationships in order to re-engage donors and raise adequate funds for the annual operation of Scouting in Central Washington.

To provide for the financial sustainability of the council for the present and the future, the Grand Columbia Council will raise \$150,000 by December 31, 2009 to renew a conditional charter. By December 31, 2010 the council will secure \$1.6 million through fund raising and selling properties to retire existing debt and begin to build the endowment for the council. The council will raise a total of \$11.5 million by January 1, 2020 to secure the council's financial future. To accomplish this the council will:

1. Conduct a major gifts campaign enlisting past contributors, Friends of Scouting from our chartered partners and throughout the community.
2. Sell under utilized council properties.
3. Continue the campaign to grow the Endowment.

The council has established the following timetable:

- Aug. 13, 2009 LDS Relationships Committee Meeting - share basics of plan to be out of debt and financially stable.
- Aug. 18, 2009 Finance Comm. Mtg. - discussion and review of the plan.
- Sept. 15, 2009 Finance Comm. Mtg. - final review of plan before submitting to Executive Committee
- Sept. 22, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting, approve plan and propose to the full Executive Board to sell Summit Lake and Scout-A-Vista.
- Oct. 22, 2009 LDS Relationships Committee Mtg. - present full plan to committee.
- Dec. 31, 2009 - Goal \$150,000 raised.
- June 30, 2010 -Goal \$250,000 raised.
- Dec. 31, 2010 - Goal \$1,600,000 raised, properties sold and debt retired.
- Jan. 1, 2011 - Continue to raise funds to grow the council's endowment fund.