

SAMPLE BEQUEST CLAUSES – BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA LOCAL COUNCILS

Note: Bequests similar to the four samples may also be made to family trusts or charitable trusts, donor advised funds, or numerous other gift vehicles. Any of these bequests may be:

- Contingent on surviving other beneficiaries, or life events
- Residuary gifts, from what may be left over in an estate, and
- Percentage designations from the overall estate

GENERAL BEQUEST

“I give, devise, and bequeath to the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, a not-for-profit corporation with headquarters in _____, or its legal successor thereto: *(insert sum of money, portion of estate, description of property, or... “the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate.”)* to be used for such purposes as the council may designate.”

(The simplest way to make a gift to Scouting without conditions. The council board has the freedom and responsibility to determine the use of the funds or property received. They may place the gift in the endowment, spend it on capital or operating needs, etc.)

SPECIFIC BEQUEST

“I give, devise, and bequeath to _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, a non-profit corporation with headquarters in _____, or the legal successor thereto, *(insert sum of money, portion of estate, description of property, or “... the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate.”)* to be owned, held, and used by the _____ Council for the following purpose(s): *(list specific purpose for which bequest is made)*

If it is found by the executive board of the _____ Council that all or part of this bequest cannot be used to the best advantage for the above purpose, then all or any balance of this bequest not so expended may be used for any purpose, approved by said executive board, within the corporate powers of the council.”

(When this form of bequest is used, the gift property will be used for the specific purpose or projects chosen by the donor. For example: to fund understaffed Scouting districts, to fund Hispanic Scouting initiatives, to build or improve a council camp or office, provide camperships, etc.)

GENERAL ENDOWMENT BEQUEST

“I give, devise, and bequeath to the endowment fund of the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, a not-for-profit corporation with headquarters in _____, or its legal successor thereto *(insert here sum of money, portion of estate, description of property, or the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate)*, to be added to, held, and administered by the trustee

in accordance with the terms, provisions, and conditions as set forth in the declaration of trust of the _____ Council.”

(When this form of bequest is used, the use of the principal and income from the funds or property is governed by the terms of the council’s trust agreement. For many BSA councils, this principal is presumed to be held in perpetuity and may not be spent, unless donor otherwise specifies.)

SPECIFIC ENDOWMENT BEQUEST

“I give, devise, and bequeath to the endowment fund of the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, a not-for-profit corporation with headquarters in _____, or its legal successor thereto: *(insert sum of money, portion of estate, description of property, or “... the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate”)*, to be held in trust by said trustee and by their lawful successor, to be used for *(List specific purposes for which bequest is made – donor may permit use of principal)*.

If it is found by the Executive Board of the _____ Council that all or part of the income cannot be used to the best advantage for the above purpose, then all or any balance of the income not so expended may be used for any purpose approved by said Board which is within the corporate powers of the council.”

(This form of bequest differs by either restricting the use of the income or unrestricting the principal. For example, to fund understaffed Scouting districts, to create camperships for disadvantaged youth, to build or renovate a camp facility or office, etc.)

BEQUEST FOR DONORS CONCERNED ABOUT MERGERS

“I give, devise, and bequeath *(insert sum of money, portion of estate, description of property, or... “the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate.”)* to the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, located in _____, or its legal successor thereto, or, in the event of a merger or consolidation, to the district/geographic area previously served or defined by the _____ Council boundaries as of the date of this Will.”

IRAs, INSURANCE, AND OTHER BEQUEST ALTERNATIVES

You may also make distributions via beneficiary designations for: life insurance, IRA’s and other retirement accounts, charitable trusts, revocable trusts, and gift annuities. To do so, simply ask the plan or fund administrator for a Change of Beneficiary form, state the percentage of the proceeds you want to go to the council, and list the “_____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, [City, State]” as beneficiary. You may also need to include the council’s tax ID number on this form (available from the council or www.guidestar.org).