

Microsoft/Boeing Volunteer Service Hours

The Chief Seattle Council selected a task force to review the Microsoft & Boeing Volunteer Match Programs, where money is received by the council on behalf of the volunteer employees of these companies. This task force was made up of a past president of the council, an executive board member who is in a unit that receives Microsoft funds, the council commissioner, and a CPA who is also a member of our executive board.

After much research, which included talking to people, reading information off the company's websites, and reviewing the tax laws, the task force has made the following determination:

The Chief Seattle Council provides services and resources to units, leaders and youth, such as four outstanding camping facilities. In order to make these camps available for youth and adults, the council spends \$1,096,959 annually.

Four camping properties:

- Each with a full-time ranger/director
- Maintenance expense
- Occupancy – lights, telephone, propane, etc.
- Insurance on the facilities
- Camperships are available for youth with financial challenges. No Scout will be denied the opportunity to attend Chief Seattle Council camps, because of financial reasons.

Because the council believes that every child should have the opportunity to participate in Scouting, it provides handbooks and uniforms and even membership fees.

The council provides training, staff and many other resources to help support the local units.

The council also provides sickness and accident insurance that the units had to purchase in the past.

We fully appreciate the stated concerns from some participating volunteers that have requested a significant increase in the credits given to their units. Our auditors have reviewed the tax codes. Money cannot be passed through a non-profit organization. Therefore, the council cannot accept a gift from a company and pass it on to a unit. If the council did this, it would lose its 501(c) 3 status.

Everyone wants the same thing: To offer the best Scouting program for our youth today and for our youth of tomorrow. The expressed intent of these matching programs is to help maintain council Scouting programs. The Chief Seattle Council wants every Scout/youth to benefit from the Microsoft and Boeing Volunteer Service Hours dollars, not just the certain units fortunate enough to have these corporate employees/volunteers. It is our hope that unit volunteers will understand that it's not in the best interest of our council to have units that have and units that have not. There is also the issue of the youth taking ownership of their activities through fundraising.

While this decision has been a difficult process, it is important that we look to the greater good that clearly benefits from these volunteer hour gifts.

After much discussion and evaluation, the council will provide the following:

Every time a unit secures 50 volunteer service hours from Microsoft or Boeing, the committee chair will receive two \$50.00 Scout bucks. These Scout bucks can be used for the following:

- To purchase items in the Scout Shop – Bremerton or Seattle
- To use toward camping fees for any of the four Chief Seattle Council camps – Camp Pigott, Camp Parsons, Camp Brinkley and Camp Sheppard.
- To use toward day camp fees
- To use toward training fees

Thank you for your understanding, and on behalf of the Chief Seattle Council, Thank You! Your participation in this unique program really makes a difference in the lives of the youth throughout our council.