**Sample Bishop's Letter to Ward Members**

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[Printed on ward letterhead]

[Date: 2 weeks out from ward kick-off]

Dear Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I would like to personally invite your family to join me and our stake presidency with an investment in character by supporting the local council of the Boy Scouts of America and participating in our upcoming Friends of Scouting campaign. As you are aware, the Church will end its 105-year association with Scouting and implement a new child and youth program in January 2020. Members are asked, however, to “continue their active participation and financial support” of Scouting during this interregnum, as “the Church will continue to register all boys ages 8-13, those 14 and older working on rank advancement and adult leaders associated with those youth.”

The Friends of Scouting campaign is the main fundraiser for our local Boy Scout council and the principal way in which the Church has encouraged members of the Church to support our local council financially. We are inviting every household to donate as a *friend* of Scouting, regardless of whether they are or have been a Scout, Scout parent or Scout leader. Every dollar raised helps the Grand Canyon Council extend programs to the boys in our ward, as well as for more than 40,000 youth throughout Arizona, including at-risk youth who are desperately in need of quality outdoor and life experiences that teach principles the gospel espouses.

To complete the Friends of Scouting campaign efficiently, we will begin asking for contributions on Sunday, February 17th. Our goal is to invite each family in the ward to contribute. [Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_] from our ward will be contacting you directly to ask for your much needed contribution.

*Please donate generously. It costs approximately $175 to provide Scouting to one boy for one year, although any amount that you are able to give is appreciated. Your support is essential in this worthy cause. Thank you for your support!*

Sincerely,

[Bishop]

[Or all three bishopric signatures]