



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please reach out to our team if you have a question that we have not answered below.



OUR DONORS AND SUPPORT TEAMS GETTING TO MEET FIRST RESPONDERS

DONOR QUESTIONS

Can donors donate to a particular first responder or agency?

You can select the agency you would like your donation to fund. Your donation can go towards a specific officer in a specific agency, or to an agency, region, or state. Currently, we have outfitted over 5,000 first responders, in 22 states. The easiest way is to donate online or to mail a check. We keep track of the funds for each department.

How long does it take for an first responder to get gear?

Once all the funding is in, it depends on how many officers are getting their gear and when a presentation can be scheduled. We do our absolute best to get the gear to the recipients as soon as possible. If we are unable to schedule a presentation, we can mail the gear. Once an officer is measured for the gear, it is about 45-60 days for the gear to be manufactured.

How much of my donation will go toward gear?

Each year we strive to get 100% of your donation going towards armor. In 2020, we are at \$.85 per dollar going towards armor. The \$.15 per dollar allows us to continue our mission by paying for salaries, traveling to communities across the nation to present the armor, and paying for other various daily operating costs. To continue to get to our goal of 100%, we continuously evaluate our budget with our staff and our board of directors. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes, your donation is tax deductible. We are a 501 3 (c) not for profit charity.

Are your financials available for review?

Yes, as we have grown, so has our transparency. Our goal as a non-profit has always been to show how and where we spend *YOUR* donor dollars. Because of this, we hired an independent auditor in 2018 and 2019 to To give you an unbiased look in our financials.

What is a Support Team / How do I adopt an officer?

We do our best to invite donors and community members to attend one of our many presentations where the gear is delivered to the officers in need. At these presentations, we honor the officers and match them up with a community member who will "adopt" them and be there support team to bring some positivity to their first responder throughout the year. In order to be invited, we must have your contact information. Please reach out if you have questions.

AGENCY QUESTIONS

My agency needs help. How do I begin?

We are a faith based non-profit which utilizes supporters who invest financially but also commit to encouraging and praying for the officers and their families. Please ensure you have received permission from the command staff in your agency. You must get approval for the Angel Armor armor (Premium NIJ Level IIIA body armor package with front & back plates for NIJ Level III all-day rifle protection and a Galvion Ballistic Helmet Meets NIJ Level IIIA) we provide, the use of donated funds for the equipment, support teams, and vest presentations.

Do you provide grants for agencies?

No, unfortunately we do not have any grant funding available. Our program is based on getting each community to rally around their own first responders.

Do I have to fundraise?

The short answer is yes. SHIELD616 is a non-profit based in Colorado Springs, CO. We do not currently have the staff or resources to fundraise in every community which needs gear. We provide this much needed armor through the generosity of members of the communities in which the first responders live, work and serve. We are here to provide phone support and suggestions to help you in your mission. We can also work with you to provide custom marketing and social media materials to get you going.

How much do I need to fundraise?

This depends on how many first responders your agency is working to protect and which specific gear they need. Please consult with our team to confirm which package will work best for your agency. We have several options. The full armor Police package with Angel Armor vest and plates is \$2,100 per officer. The full armor Fire packages is \$2,200 per firefighter. You can also do, plates and helmets only. Don't get discouraged if it is a big number. You can do it!

What kinds of fundraisers work well?

This varies by community. We have done several successful telethons with local TV stations, church funding drives, silent auctions, social media fundraising, golf tournaments, dine and donate nights at restaurants, and other events. Think about what kind of fundraisers would be successful in your community.

What kinds of fundraisers aren't permitted?

We ask that our partners refrain from using GoFundMe types of fundraisers. Many platforms that allow donations to a non-profit will take your donation and then forward a donation to us, but that will not allow us to record the donation from a specific person and therefore we cannot send a tax-deductible receipt. These types of donations come to us as anonymous and therefore can't be designated to a specific officer or department.

Do I need to get permission from SHIELD616 to start a fundraiser?

Yes, SHIELD616 likes to be aware of all fundraisers that are happening. When we get calls or inquiries asking if fundraisers are legitimate, it helps us to know what our supporters are working on. We can also connect people in the same area so they can work together to get funding for their agency.

What if I can't fundraise?

Try to reach out to other community members who may be able to help with this. There are people who want to help make sure their first responders are safe. Many may not be aware of the funding challenges you face.

Who should I reach out to?

Churches, service organizations, police or fire organizations and foundations, businesses, sports teams and local news stations in your area are great places to start. The Chamber of Commerce in your area may be able to direct you to local companies who are charitable or are looking for a charity to partner with. The general public probably does not realize your agency needs gear. It is helpful to find ways to involve the community in supporting you.

Do you have a template donation letter?

We have created a template donation request letter for agencies to modify and use if needed. Please let us know if you think this will help you.

If I leave the agency, is the gear my property and able to leave with me?

Once we donate the armor, it is property of the agency, and it's up to the agency on what they will allow. Your agency is responsible for the armor and its expiration dates. While we allow donors to sponsor individual officers, they do so with the understanding the gear is donated to the department or agency that you work for.

We are here to be your partner as we all work to protect our protectors. We are committed to this mission and we know you are too. To assist you in sharing the vision and mission of SHIELD616, please see our website for video, links to media coverage of past events and photos which highlight the power of community and protection for our first responders. If you need any assistance or additional content (including logos), please contact SHIELD616 at 719-345-2442.