



February 2020

Dear Unit Leader:

Thousands of people in our community are hungry with almost half of these being children. And the need is growing every day. Through Scouting for Food, we have the opportunity to help alleviate this need.

Our Scouts are encouraged to participate in a service project during March 30 - April 30. Scouting for Food is a traditional service project that provides needed resources to our area food banks. Scouts canvas the neighborhoods, knocking on doors collecting food that will be delivered directly to food pantries within your community. For other ways to help, such as assisting with the unloading at the pantries, please contact your district's Scouting for Food Chair or your district executive.

We know that your unit calendar is full, but this is a worthy cause and we urge your unit to be a part of it – and to enable your leaders and Scouts to be a part of it. Contact your district Scouting for Food Chair or Activities Chair for specific district information. To assist you with planning and scheduling, we are providing you with a Unit Leader Kit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Scouting for Food Chair, District Activities Chair, District Executive, or Stephanie Marron (smarron@crossroadsbsa.org).

Yours in Scouting,

Spencer Brink
Workforce Readiness Director/Scouting for Food Advisor



UNIT SCOUTING FOR FOOD CHAIR

Description:

Provides leadership to the unit for the Scouting for Food campaign

Responsibilities:

- Accept responsibility for your unit's participation in Scouting for Food.
- Sign unit up as needed within your district.
- Attend unit meetings as needed to promote the service project.
- Attend district briefing meeting (typically at Roundtable) to obtain instructions and supplies (e.g., distribution map, food drop off location).
- Save bags/boxes for Scouts to use during the collection.
- Keep the District Scouting for Food Chair regularly informed of progress towards goals.
- Create enthusiasm for the project and speak to the need of the project with the Scouting family and community.
- Promote Scouting for Food at unit meetings, activities, unit website, email blasts, etc.
- Provide a map of the unit's assigned collection territory and give assignments to Scouts (e.g., dens, patrols).
- Lead unit on collection day.
- Deliver the food collected to the designated collection station or assigned food pantry in your district.
- Report collection results through the Scouting for Food reporting page in order to get your patches.



UNIT MECHANICS

The Scouting for Food program will be conducted by the Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships of the Crossroads of America Council in 2019 during the month of March for the collection of donated food from homes in the neighborhoods throughout the district.

Districts will work with the local food banks, food pantries, and other non-profit agencies in their areas to fill their shelves. It takes a great deal of community support, planning, cooperation, desire, dedication, passion, and volunteers to make Scouting for Food the largest community food drive in the BSA.

2020 TIMELINE FOR SUCCESS

During the Month of February:

Work with District Scouting for Food Chair to identify which neighborhood(s) your unit will be covering.

Complete online Unit Commitment form (<https://forms.gle/cXBFFcZXcotghEzR7>)

For month of March:

- Make sure your unit has a Scouting for Food Chair as well as an additional group of helpers.
- Make sure your District Scouting for Food Chair knows you are participating.
- Save bags/boxes for Scouts to use during the collection.
- PROMOTE, PROMOTE & PROMOTE!!! Get your Scouts and local community excited about this great opportunity to make a difference and help fight hunger in Crossroads of America Council!
- Pick up unit coverage map and collection bags from district.

Before Collection Day

- Distribute unit territory instructions and safety guidelines to all Scouts.
- Continue to promote plan within unit and through your chartering organization.
- Recruit drivers.
- Divide your coverage maps into smaller areas to provide to each driver/Scout team.

Collection Bag Distribution Day, if desired

- When Scouts gather at assembly area, conduct instructional and safety briefing for all Scouts and drivers.
- Pass out maps and driver instructions.
- Deliver collection bags door to door.

Food Collection Day

- When Scouts gather at assembly area, conduct instructional and safety briefing for all Scouts and drivers.
- Pass out maps and driver instructions.
- Conduct the food collection for your territory.
- Consolidate the food into as few vehicles as possible for transport to the drop off site.
- Calculate the food weight using the suggested formula and complete the unit collection report.
- Deliver the food to the designated district drop off site.

After Food Collection Day

- Congratulate your Scouts on a job well done.
- Scouting for Food Chair logs in service hours onto Journey to Excellence website.
- Request patches through the Crossroads of America Council website.



PROMOTING THROUGH YOUR CHARTERING ORGANIZATION and COMMUNITY

Here are a few ways to help spread the word about Scouting for Food through your organization and community:

- Use the enclosed one-paragraph or two-paragraph newsletter and ask the editor of your school/church/synagogue/temple/mosque/HOA bulletin to publish it.
- Ask to speak to your school PTA or PTO, or your congregation about the importance of Scouting for Food.
- Create Scouting for Food fliers for bulletin boards throughout your school/church/synagogue/temple/mosque/public library or neighborhood grocery store.
- Use social media to create awareness among your electronic friends.



TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER UNITS

Scouting Magazine surveyed their readers for tips and suggestions related to Scouting for Food. Here are 10 of their favorites.

1. “We are in a rural area, and we take extra trash bags and pick up any trash that we see in the neighborhood. The neighbors love that extra help.” (Micaela H.)
2. “Our area is large and centered around the school, so we set our dens off with maps and highlighters so they can indicate what sides of the street got done and where they stopped. Then on pickup day, they know exactly what areas to re-canvas.” (Jon P.)
3. “Our troop mans the collection point and serves hot chocolate and homemade doughnuts to the Cub Scouts. Great for recruiting and retention.” (@troop407)
4. “Organization, organization, organization. Get as many kids as you can that way they are not out there as long and will be in better spirits.” (Darrick B.)
5. “We send two or three Scouts to each door. Many people want to give one item to each Scout so instead of one item we get two or three.” (J.T. H.)
6. “If your unit is big enough, set up shop at a local store in addition to the door-to-door pickup!” (@ScoutingNews)
7. “We include a nice letter in the bags explaining what we’re doing as well as leave a thank- you note when we pick up. And on the initial bag letter I always leave my contact information in case they miss the pickup and still want to donate.” (Jon P.)
8. “Where we are, there are only so many entrances to the neighborhoods. So we made up signs that we stick at the front of each area letting everyone know when we would be picking up bags.” (Jason M.)
9. “Have each boy bring in food to their next meeting that they collect from friends and family.” (Patricia R.)
10. Finally, the always-popular pie in the face: “You can set a goal, and if every den gets that goal, then they get to put a pie in their den leader’s face.” (Chris C.)



NEWSLETTER SAMPLES

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NEWSLETTER ITEM #1

(Cub pack, Scout troop, Venturing crew, Explorer post #) sponsored by (_____) needs your help - and so do thousands of hungry people in our community. Our Scouts are participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive. The 2020 food drive will take place on (date), where Scouts will collect the donated items from their assigned territory. Food donated in a particular area will be distributed through relief pantries in that area. Visit www.crossroadsbsa.org to learn more about Scouting in our area. Thank you for making a difference in our community.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NEWSLETTER ITEM #2

(Cub pack, Scout troop, Venturing crew, Explorer post #) sponsored by (_____) needs your help - and so do thousands of hungry people in our community. Our Scouts are participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive. The 2019 food drive will take place on (date), where Scouts throughout the (community) will collect the donated items from their assigned territory. Food donated in a particular area will be distributed through relief pantries in that area.

During the 30th year of Scouting for Food, the Scouts hope to exceed last year's food drive which collected nearly 225,000 cans of food. This year the food pantries are looking for food items such as canned tuna, peanut butter, or canned ravioli as well as baby items like formula and diapers. Your help is desperately needed. Please be sure to look for Scouting for Food collections and make plans to donate food items on (date). Visit www.crossroadsbsa.org to learn more about Scouting in our area. Thank you for making a difference in our community.



UNIT TERRITORY INSTRUCTIONS

- Your unit should work its assigned territory only. It is crucial that you cover your assigned area thoroughly. Each year the council office receives calls from disappointed people whose homes are missed.
- Skip homes and apartment units with "No Solicitation" rules. Scouts should not enter a building with multiple units, and with a single entry that would allow a Scout to be out of sight from the street.
- Collect from private homes only. Do not solicit from grocery stores or other commercial establishments unless you have been given permission from the store manager in advance.
- Be certain Scouts are in full uniform, travel in groups of two or more, and are adequately supervised - this is especially true for Cub Scouts.
- If you will be leaving collection bags at homes prior to the collection day, the bags should be distributed door-to-door no earlier than 9:00 a.m. Place bags on a door handle or between a storm door and entry door. **Do not put them in mailboxes**; this is against the law.
- On collection day, begin no earlier than 9:00 a.m. If you distributed bags prior to collection day, collect food from the same area where you distributed the bags.
- Food should be turned in to your district collection station or local food pantry.
- Check with your collection station or food pantry to determine the times available to drop off.
- If you have any questions, contact your District Scouting for Food Chair, District Activities Chair, or your District Executive.



SAFETY GUIDELINES

(Make copies for each Scout and participating adult or driver.)

- Do not go into unsafe areas or areas that you are not comfortable.
- Use the buddy system and be safety conscious.
- No one-on-one contact between adults and youth members.
- Use extreme caution when crossing streets.
- Never ride in the back of pick-ups or trailers.
- Never enter a home.
- Do not enter fenced yards with dogs.
- Always wear safety belts while riding in a vehicle.
- Always make sure 2 adults accompany all Scouts.
- Wear a Scout uniform.
- Be friendly and courteous to everyone.
- Do not walk across lawns or flower beds. Use sidewalks.
- Thank people even if they don't contribute.
- Have fun with your fellow Scouts!