

Scouting for Food Unit Instructions

History of Scouting for Food: Since 1910, the ideals of Scouting have guided young men to perform "service to others and to the community." Responding to the plight of America's poor and hungry is a traditional Scouting "good turn." During World War I, Boy Scouts planted vegetable gardens to provide food for the hungry. President Roosevelt called on Scouts to collect food for the needy during the Great Depression. Planting Victory Gardens were the Scouting "good turns" organized during World War II. Today, Boy Scouts continue their Good Turn efforts in community stewardship through Scouting for Food. The Scouting for Food Drive, began as a National good turn in 1988; today as part of the Good Turn for America initiative as the Garden State Council continues the tradition.



Instructions:

1. Request the number of bags you need and pick-up the bags at either the Rowan or Riggins Scout offices before November 7, or at the October Roundtable for your district.
2. Distribute bags in your neighborhoods on November 10.
3. Pick up the filled-bags left outside of the homes on November 17.
4. Count and log the number of items collected
5. Deliver collected food to a local food bank or other selected drop-off location.
6. Report your results on the council website through this link, or turn in the report form to the Scout office by December 1.

If your unit has had a successful Scouting for Food program in the past, please continue to follow the same routine as last year.

If your unit has never participated in the Scouting for Food program, read and follow the instruction on the following pages.

For questions about the Scouting for Food program please contact; Thom Shoop, thomshoop@gmail.com or joseph.blazejewski@scouting.org

To make a request for bags, contact the Rowan Scout Resource Center (609) 261-5850 or Riggins Scout Resource Center (856) 327-1700.

IMPORTANT DATES:

**Saturday
November 10
Empty Bag
distribution**

**Saturday
November 17
Full Food Bag
Pick-Up**

**Saturday
December 1
Report
Collection
Results**

What you need to know to conduct a successful Scouting for Food Drive:

The two most used methods of collecting food are:

- 1.) **Total Town Coordination**
- 2.) **Scout to Neighborhood**

Total Town Coordination

The total town coordination requires a **central coordinator** to secure maps of the town, divide the streets into sections and assign individual teams to completely cover their assigned section. This means that team will put the empty bags out and collect the filled bags *only in their assigned section*. The filled bags are then taken to a central location for sorting and sometimes boxed into similar types of food as specified by the food pantry receiving the donation. The food is counted and trucked to the food pantry. This method of completely covering a town or large area, collects the most food, but takes more cooperation.

Scout to Neighborhood

The scout to neighborhood method has each Scout cover only his own neighborhood. The Scout will put the empty bags out and collect the filled bags only in his own neighborhood. The coordination here is usually on a unit basis, but can be by den or patrol. The best results are achieved when all Scouts collect the food on the same day. They get to see the accomplishment of the group's collection, and it is amazing to see how much food can be collected by your unit.

Who receives the collected food?

The recipient of the food is typically a local food pantry, but can also be a community or religious based organization the collects and distributes food to those in need. The selection of the food pantry is the responsibility of the coordinator. A Google search of "<county> food pantries" will reap a large number of food pantries in your area. The coordinator must work with the food pantry volunteers to prepare for the delivery of the food, since special arrangements are often needed for large collections of food.

Where do we get the bags?

The bags are obtained by the Garden State Council and coordinators (or units) can request, and then pick up, the number of bags they need from one of the council offices or during the October district roundtables. The bags should include simple directions, what types of items are needed and the date the bag should be placed outside for Scouts to pick-up.

Reporting

To show the amazing efforts of our Scouts in the fight against hunger, it is critical that you complete the council report by December 1, and the BSA National service hours report by December 30.

You will need to report:

- The number of leaders, Scouts, and non-scouts (adult & youth) who participated in the collection
- The amount (measure) of food collected by counting the total number of items received
- Calculate the number of man-hours it took to do conduct the drive (including loading, transporting, stocking items at the donation site)

Council Report: Must be done by December 1.

- On-line Collection Report Form can be accessed by going to the website:
<http://dk.gardenstatescouting.org/FoodReport>

National BSA Report: Must be done by December 30 or it will not count for the current year. Access the link through <https://my.scouting.org> where you log service hours. Remember, service hours have an impact on your unit's Journey-to-Excellence score!