



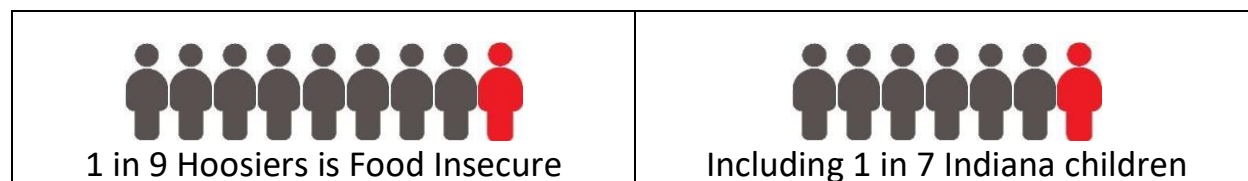
CROSSROADS
OF AMERICA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



Unit Support Packet
April 13 – 20, 2024

www.crossroadsbsa.org

FOOD INSECURITY IMPACTS INDIANA FAMILIES



FOOD INSECURITY IS MORE THAN BEING HUNGRY.

Individuals and families that experience food insecurity also are more likely to experience:

- Toxic stress that leads to decreased health and physical well-being.
- Increased levels of anxiety and depression.
- Poorer concentration, which reduces performance at work or school.
- Increase absenteeism from work or school.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD SERVICE PROJECT PROVIDES VITAL SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

Community food pantries, churches, schools, and other community organizations play a vital role in helping individuals and families experiencing a period of food insecurity. These organizations constantly need to refill their shelves with nutritious foods to meet the needs of local families.

Scouting for Food is a national BSA service project that has supported local communities for decades. Scouts across the country collect and deliver millions of pounds of food each year to local food banks and food pantries.

For Scouts, Scouting for Food can be more than just collecting food for the local pantry. Engaging in service projects like Scouting for Food can:

- Help Scouts develop a sense of ownership, engagement, and responsibility for their community.
- Develop empathy for the needs of their neighbors and work to alleviate suffering.
- Learn to organize and carry out a plan.
- Engage in meaningful work with a team of Scouts, Scout parents, and leaders.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING SCOUTING FOR FOOD A PRIORITY
FOR YOUR TROOP, PACK OR CREW IN 2024.

TO CONFIRM YOUR UNIT'S PARTICIPATION, PLEASE VISIT THE
[ONLINE ENROLLMENT FORM](#) OR CALL YOUR DISTRICT
SCOUTING FOR FOOD COORDINATOR

UNIT SCOUTING FOR FOOD PLANNING

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the unit Scouting for Food coordinator this year. Here are a few steps to take to make your drive a success.

1. DETERMINE THE DATE OF YOUR DRIVE

- a. The Scouting for Food Drive is the week of April 13 - 20, 2024.
- b. Occasionally, units have conflicts that make another date more manageable.

2. [ENROLL YOUR UNIT ONLINE](#) by March 31, 2024

- a. You will need the following information:
 - i. Unit Information (Number and District)
 - ii. Date of Food Drive, if different.
 - iii. Method(s) of Food Drive
 1. Neighborhood Canvassing
 2. Collections at Businesses or Chartered Organizations
 - iv. Name and location of the food pantry where you will deliver your food collection (for districts that do not use a central collection point).

3. ORGANIZE YOUR DRIVE

- a. For business collection points and chartered organization collection points, obtain permission to have a drive at the location. Schedule method of collection and pick-up.
- b. For neighborhood canvassing, ensure that you have coordinated your neighborhood efforts with your district coordinator (in areas where multiple units overlap). Plan the date and time for delivering bags and the time to meet to collect donations.
- c. Contact your designated food pantry (if applicable) to understand their operating hours and understand their needs.
- d. Organize the youth to gather the food. More often, this can be accomplished by den or patrol. Recruit sufficient adult leadership to accompany each group. Plan to follow all leadership and transportation guidelines as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting.

4. PICK UP AND DELIVER YOUR COLLECTION TO THE DISTRICT COLLECTION LOCATION OR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY.

- a. Count and record the number of participants from your unit engaged in the food drive.
- b. Count and record the number of food items collected (easiest done when collected).
- c. Take pictures for your unit newsletter and to share with your chartered organization.

5. USE THE [COLLECTION REPORT](#) TO SHARE YOUR NUMBER OF ITEMS COLLECTED AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE YOUR PATCHES.

- a. Collection Reports must be received by Sunday, April 30, 2024, to be eligible for patches.
- b. **A personalized collection link will be sent to you at the end of your collection week.**



Duplicate as needed

SCOUTING FOR FOOD COLLECTION TALLY

UNIT # _____ DISTRICT: _____

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS				
#CUBS	#SCOUTS	#VENTURERS	#LEADERS	#OTHER FAM

Item Tally

Please tally the number of items collected in your group. The easiest method is to count the items in each bag as you collect it.

Total Items _____

Share your totals. You may report your totals to your unit coordinator to report or you may submit them directly to the Council using the link below. We suggest completing the report as soon as your drive is complete. This report must be submitted no later than April 30, 2024 to receive Scouting for Food patches.



<https://cacin.us/24-SFFResults>



SCOUTING FOR FOOD INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP LEADERS

- Work only in your assigned area as agreed with your district representative. This prevents duplication of efforts.
- A Scout is Courteous. 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 at grocery stores or other commercial establishments unless you have been given permission from the store manager in advance.
- Scouts should wear their uniforms, follow the buddy system, and have adequate supervision as defined by the Guide to Safe Scouting - 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 where 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!

NEWSLETTER SAMPLES

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NEWSLETTER - COMMUNITY

On (DATE), Scouts from (UNIT TYPE, UNIT NUMBER) sponsored by (CHARTERED ORGANIZATION) in our community will be participating in Scouting for Food, a national Good Turn for America, that serves our community by helping provide food to our local food pantries that support families in need.

One in nine Hoosiers experiences food insecurity – a challenge which has disproportionate impacts on children.

We would like to invite you to join us in combating hunger in our community by (HOW DO YOU WANT THEM TO DONATE). Your donation will be used to support the food pantry at (NAME OF FOOD PANTRY).

The food pantry is especially in need of unexpired, canned goods; peanut butter, and other long lasting dry food items

Thank you for joining us in making a difference in our community. For more information about Scouting and Scouting for Food, please visit www.crossroadsbsa.org.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NEWSLETTER - BUSINESS

One in nine Hoosiers experiences food insecurity – a challenge which has disproportionate impacts on children. We believe that food insecurity in our community is a challenge that we must all address.

(BUSINESS NAME) is proud to join with (UNIT TYPE, UNIT NUMBER) sponsored by (CHARTERED ORG) in the annual Scouting for Food Drive. We will be collecting food at (WHERE) during the (TIME FRAME) and invite you to bring food items to donate as your circumstances allow. Your donation will be used to support the food pantry at (NAME OF FOOD PANTRY).

The food pantry is especially in need of unexpired, canned goods; peanut butter, baby formula, and other long lasting dry food items.

Thank you for joining us in making a difference in our community. For more information about Scouting and Scouting for Food, please visit www.crossroadsbsa.org.

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.)