

# 2010 Scouting for Food Unit Guide

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## Dear Unit Leader:

*Scouting for Food* is Scouting's community project aimed at addressing the problem of hunger in the community in which we live and work. This year your participation will not only help to feed the hungry in our community, but also it will qualify as one of the requirements for the Service ribbon for the Year of Celebration patch. We need your help this March to put a stop to hunger!

The month of March has been identified as the Atlanta Area Council's Scouting for Food month. On March 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a final Scouting for Food Celebration at The Atlanta Community Food Bank.

**What:** An area-wide food drive conducted to support agencies that provide food to those in need. The Atlanta Area Council will conduct this drive in 13 counties.

**When:** March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**How:** On a district by district basis, packs, troops, teams, crews and posts are assigned geographic areas in which they distribute bags and, a week later, return to collect bags filled with non-perishable food items. There will be a Scouting for Food Celebration on March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Atlanta Community Food Bank that we would encourage everyone to attend. **Did you know that the Atlanta Community Food Bank distributes food through more than 800 community-based nonprofit organizations throughout all of North East Georgia?**



## Food for thought:

- Last year, the Atlanta Community Food Bank distributed nearly 22 million pounds of food to more than 800 community-based nonprofit organizations with feeding programs in 38 Metro Atlanta and North Georgia counties. (*Atlanta Community Food Bank, 2010*)
- **20.1** percent of Georgia's children live in poverty – that's nearly half a million children under age 18. (*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Profile. 2007 and 2008*)
- 92 cents of every dollar donated to the Atlanta Community Food Bank goes directly to services in the community to help fight hunger. (*Atlanta Community Food Bank, 2010*)
- More than 15,000 volunteers help fulfill the Food Bank's mission every year. Last year this added up to more than **87,131** volunteer hours – worth **\$784,179 - based on \$9.00/hour**. (*Atlanta Community Food Bank, 2010*)
- Demand is up. In **December of 2009**, ACFB distributed **68% more** food and grocery products to its network of 800 partner agencies than December of 2008. Year to date, ACFB has distributed 37% more food than last fiscal year.

Since 1910, the ideals of Scouting have guided young men and women 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 WWI, 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 WWII. Today, Scouts continue their Good Turn efforts in community stewardship through *Scouting for Food*.

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### UNIT SCOUTING FOR FOOD CHAIRMAN

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Accept responsibility for your unit's participation in "Scouting For Food".
2. Secure the commitment of your unit leadership for enthusiastic participation. Register your unit by visiting [www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org) and following the Scouting for Food links.
3. Attend the District Briefing Meeting set by your District Scouting for Food Chairman and secure all needed information and collection supplies.
4. Make sure all Scouts have a designated area and ensure that Scouts will deliver a bag to all households in that area.
5. Arrange for collection of filled bags from households in the same territory one week following the initial drop off.
6. Arrange to have a designated unit drop off location. A specific time frame works best so you will know if everyone has reported in.

Tip: Assign Scouts to collect bags from the same area in which they delivered them. This will help cut down on missed bags.

Tip: Go back through your area in the early afternoon as some bags are missed or set out late.

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### Unit Game Plan

All units should discuss their territory with their District Scouting for Food Chair.

All Scouts and Scouters should be in full uniform so the public will be able to identify us. Thanks to our publicity partners the homeowners will know why you are there and what it is you are doing.

### Bag Drop Off Day

Assemble ahead of time. Brief the adults and Scouts, and distribute the bags.

All Scouts should travel in groups of two or more (the buddy system).

Have enough vehicles to support the number of Scouts and area covered.

Scouts should leave the bags on doors. **Do not** enter the home. **Do not** put the bags in mailbox. Make sure scouts are visible at all times.

Bags should be distributed to residences only, no businesses.

Vehicles and an adult should stay as close to Scouts as possible. Adults should be on the streets to supervise.

Remind Scouts and adults the week before Bag Distribution Day and Food Pick-up Day.

### Bag Pick Up Day

Assemble ahead of time. Brief the adults and Scouts and remind them of the drop off time frame.

**Do not** begin collection before 10 a.m.

Ask Scouts to cover the same area in which they distributed bags.

If there is no bag at the door, ring the bell or knock. If there is no answer, go to the next house; **do not** enter a house.

Go back through your area in the early afternoon to collect any bags missed or set out late.

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### UNIT TERRITORY

1. Your unit should work its assigned territory. It is crucial that you cover your assigned area thoroughly. See your District Scouting for Food Chairman to receive your territory.
2. On boundary streets, collect on your side of the street only (unless given other instructions).
3. Skip apartment units with controlled access and "No Solicitation" rules.
4. Collect from private homes only. Do **not** solicit from grocery stores or other commercial establishments.
5. Do not tie bags on doors in such a way that people cannot open their doors.
6. 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.
7. Collection bags should be distributed door-to-door beginning at 9 a.m. When distributing bags, place them in or on the door. **Do not** put them in mailboxes as that is against the law.
8. **Food must be collected the following Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. or later. Collect food from the same area where you distributed bags.**
9. If you have any questions, contact your District "Scouting For Food" Chairman.

### Chartering Organizations

1. Encourage your Charter Organization to have an onsite collection location for their members not involved with the Scouting program.
2. Start promoting with your organization a few weeks before the month of March
3. Work with your organization to put an announcement in the bulletin, newsletter, etc.
4. Put a collection box onsite for the month of March. Be sure to keep the collection box emptied and clean so it is not a burden on the organization.
5. There will be a photo contest for the best / most creative charter organization collection site. Photos are due by March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
6. If collecting from your charter organization is a new idea, consider delivering that food to the Atlanta Community Food bank on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## Recognition

1. Each Scout participating in Scouting for Food will receive a Scouting for Food recognition patch.
2. Each Scout that collects 100 items for 100 years of Scouting will receive a Scouting for Food recognition item.
3. Scouting for Food play a huge role in earning the Service Ribbon in 100 Year Celebration of Scouting patch.
4. Each unit that has more than 50% of its members participating will receive a Scouting for Food unit streamer.

## Scouting for Food Celebration

**WHEN:** March 27<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Atlanta Community Food Bank  
732 Joseph E Lowery Blvd NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318

**TIME:** TBA

**The Scouting for Food Celebration Event will be the first time that all recognition items will be available for pick up. Please encourage all members to come and participate in the festivities, as well as drop off their 100 items to receive the special recognition item. There will be plenty of on-site activities as well as educational tours of the food bank. Keep checking [www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org) for more information.**