

2019 Scouting for Food Guidebook



ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.



www.AtlantaBSA.org/ScoutingforFood



January 27, 2019

Dear Scouting Volunteers:

As you know, a central value of the Scouting program is that of service, found easily in the Scout Oath to "Help other people at all times." It is likewise our duty as members of the Boy Scouts of America to ensure that each and every Scout has the opportunity to engage in community service projects that have meaningful and profound impact-- and Scouting for Food is this type of project.

One in five people in our community struggle with the daily need of wholesome and nutritious meals. As Scouts go into our neighborhoods and collect food, they are truly helping those in need while developing a lifelong virtue of community service. Our goal is for every unit in our council to participate in Scouting for Food, allowing each Scout an opportunity to serve, and helping our community food banks to be well stocked and able to assist our neighbors.

The Boys Scouts of America, Atlanta Area Council has a strong tradition of community service. We ask that you join us as we not only help our youth live the third point of the Scout Law, "Helpful", but as we educate and remind our community that a Scout is Helpful and Does a Good Turn Daily. Please join us in this worthy cause of collecting food to feed our neighbors in need.

We are excited to serve along with you as we work on this important community service project and character-building program. Thank you for your time and service as a Scout volunteer. We are grateful that you have agreed to organize your Unit's Scouting for Food program.

Yours in Scouting,

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Table of Contents

Letter from the Council Activities Committee	
Why should your Scouts participate in Scouting for Food?	1
Putting the Plan into Action	2
Time Line for Door to Door Campaign	3
Sample Flyer	4
District and Multi-Unit Campaigns	5
Safety and Best Practices	6
Roster	Appendix A
Entering SFF Service Project Data	Appendix B



Why should your Scouts participate in Scouting for Food?

1. Since BSA's inception in 1910, members have learned to live the principles of the Scout Oath and Law through community services of fulfilling their commitment to "DO A GOOD TURN DAILY" and to "help other people at all times".
2. The project is simple, but the impact is huge! It has been reported that 1 in 7.5 people, or an estimated 755,400 people, in metro Atlanta and north Georgia turn to food pantries and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families each year. Let's help feed our neighbors. Remember - "A Scout is Helpful"
3. Scouting for Food gives your unit, Scouting as a whole, and your Charter Organization great community visibility!
4. Scouting for Food is a great opportunity to partner with some fantastic benefiting organizations. There are over 200 food bank organizations within the greater Atlanta metro area to support – many of these may include your own Charter Organization.

More than the food collected, Scouts who learn the impact of community service, give service for the rest of their lives!



Putting the Plan into Action

What is a benefitting organization and how do I select one?

A benefitting organization is any food pantry or organization that collects food to feed people in need. Many Scouting unit's Charter Organizations operate food pantries. There are also many community organizations like the Atlanta Community Food Bank, MUST Ministries, North Fulton Community Charities, etc. Pick an organization that makes the most sense for your unit considering proximity, relationships, or personal connections of the families. Once you have selected an organization, make sure that you collect food items for donation to them in a time frame that works for your unit and the organization.

What materials do I need?

That all depends on the type of project your unit is participating in. If your Scouts are going door to door, they will need bags with directions on how to participate. Directions should include the type of items you're looking for, when you will return to pick up the bags, what organization the food will be donated to, as well as information about your unit and Charter Organization. If your unit is collecting in public place, bins and boxes may be more helpful. (A sample letter is provided later in this resource.)



How do I get the materials we need?

Your Charter Organization is a great place to look for help with printing. Be sure to use your printed material to promote the charter partner. The benefitting organization may be able to provide containers for food collection. Door-to-door campaigns may benefit from a partnership with a local grocer. The bags are a low cost and it is great promotion for their business.

When should we conduct our Scouting for Food campaign?

The exciting part of this new unit led program is, you can run this program at any time throughout the year! Consult with your benefitting organization, find out when they need additional support. Then set a time that makes sense for your Scouts and leaders.

How do I get patches for my unit?

When you pick an organization to work with and a date to collect the food, let our AAC SFF Chair know. Then you may go to the AAC Program Center and pick up your patches. We ask that you estimate the amount of patches that you need and then return the extra patches after your campaign is complete. Remember 'a Scout is Trustworthy.'

How do I log Service Hours for JTE?

See the "Entering Scouting for Food Service Project Data" guide included with this guidebook. It's also posted at www.atlantabsa.org/ScoutingforFood.

Time Line for Door to Door Campaign

- **60 Days out:**
 - Select two consecutive Saturdays for the Scouting for Food Campaign.
- **45 Days out:**
 - Gather needed materials including bags, flyers, boxes, etc.
 - Recruit adults to transport Scouts and/or food for your event.
- **30 Days out:**
 - Promote the project in your unit, Charter Organization, schools, and community organizations.
 - Use flyers, yard signs, email lists, social media, etc. to prepare the community to see Scouts collecting food.
- **15 Days out:**
 - Distribute detailed instructions, map, materials, etc. to Scouts and parents in your unit.
 - Contact AAC SFF Chair and go to the Program Center to pick up SFF patches.
- **On the first weekend:**
 - Distribute bags and/or flyers to residences.
- **On the second weekend:**
 - Collect food and thank contributors.
 - Deliver food to benefitting organization the same day you collect it if possible.
- **Within a week after food collection:**
 - Submit your Scouting for Food roster.
 - Log your service hours for Journey to Excellence.
 - Send photos to our AAC SSF Chair, Charter Organization, and benefitting organization, and local grocer, anyone who helped your campaign.
- **At your next Pack Meeting or Troop Court of Honor:**
 - Present patches to the Scouts that participated.
 - Display pictures from the event to encourage more participation in next year's campaign.

Sample Flyer

Below is a sample of a flyer your unit could make to inform and invite your community neighbors to support your Scouting for Food campaign. Customize to your unit's needs. Feel free to use pictures from one of your previous programs on your flyer. (Be sure the photo released has been signed.)

This template for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts & Venturing Crews will be available at www.atlantabsa.org/ScoutingforFood.



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Scouting for Food A National Good Turn for America

Scouting for Food is Scouting's community project aimed at addressing the problem of hunger where we live, work, and play.

Please join our local Scout Unit [redacted] sponsored by [redacted] in collecting food to fill the shelves of [redacted] Food Pantry! Suggested items include: Canned Tuna, Canned Beans, Canned Soups, Stews & Pastas, 100% Fruit Juice, Canned Fruits and Vegetables (no perishables or glass items please!). Just place these times on your front door step and our Scouts will be back to pick them up after 9:00am on Saturday [redacted], 2019. Thanks for your support!

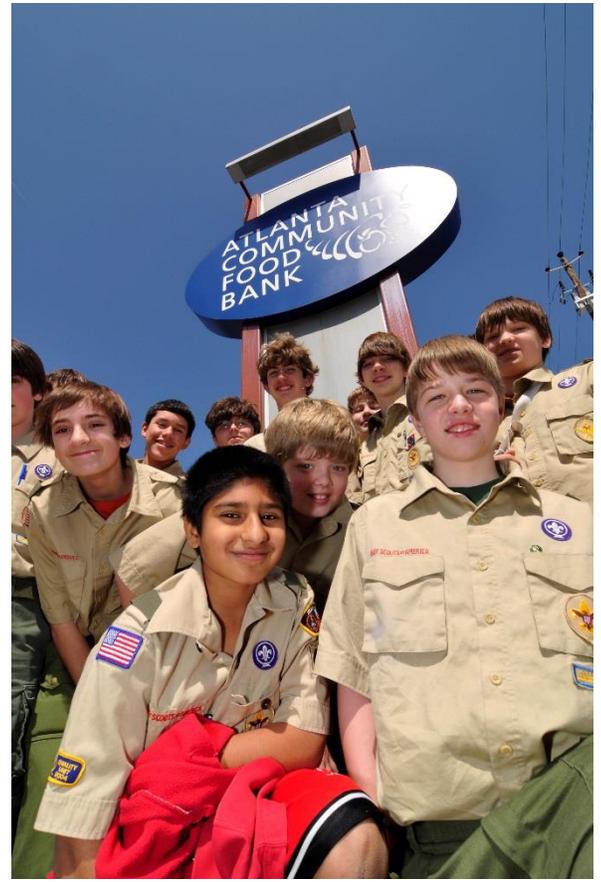
Visit www.AtlantaBSA.org to find out more about Scouting!

And www. to learn more about our Charter Organization

www. to learn about our benefiting organization



- This committee can then engage one or several benefiting organizations. Just like a unit campaign, there are key questions to ask the benefiting organizations:
 - What time of the year does your pantry have the greatest need for additional support?
 - When is your facility available to receive food donations?
 - On delivery day, can we set up a table to recognize our participating units?
 - Will you need any volunteers to help sort or move food into your facility?
 - Can you help us with printed materials to promote the campaign?
- The committee will also need to gather materials. Flyers, yard signs, bags, bins, etc. Local grocers, Charter Organizations, benefiting organizations, friends and families of the units are all great places to source materials.
- Make sure the units involved divide up the neighborhoods so that units don't overlap the same homes on the same days.
- Just like a unit campaign, remember to capitalize on the opportunity to share the success. Take pictures and share them with the local newspaper, benefiting organization, Charter Organizations, the AAC SFF Chair and anyone who has supported the campaign with materials.
- Recognize the units that participated in all of the appropriate venues: camporees, district banquet, district website, district newsletter, etc.



Safety and Best Practices

- Be prepared with water, snacks, and appropriate clothing.
- Leave flyers and/or bags on the front door- not the mail box. Placing non-mail items IN or ON a mailbox is illegal.
- Be aware of “No Solicitation” signs, gated communities, etc. When approaching neighborhoods with Homeowners Associations or other organizations it’s always better to communicate with them prior to passing out flyers and/or bags. This can also be a way to promote Scouting for Food.
- Always return to each house asked to participate to collect food. Don’t be afraid to go back twice.
- Use 2-deep leadership.
- Scouts and leaders should wear their Class A uniforms to promote Scouting in the community.
- Never ride in the back of a pick trucks.
- Make sure all Scouts and leaders riding in vehicles wear seat belts.
- Adult leaders should always be able to see the Scouts . Scouts should NEVER enter a supporter’s home.
- Follow the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
- ***Have fun! This is a great opportunity for Scouts to fellowship while making an impact.***

