



Sample Lesson Plan for the Scouting for Food Program

Prior to these meetings, unit leadership needs to determine what day(s) the bags are being delivered to the homes and what areas will be covered. This is part of the job of the unit Scouting for Food Chair.

1st week of October

Gather the Scouts together and ask them some leading questions about the Scouting for Food Program.

After discussion on each question, explain the answer

What is Scouting for Food?

Scouting for Food is a door-to-door food drive that began in 1987 as a way of combating hunger in our local communities. Fighting hunger became one of the “five unacceptables” issued by the national office of the Boy Scouts of America and became the emphasis for all Scout councils across America. The other four were unemployment, illiteracy, child abuse and drug abuse. Scouting for Food continues to be a major program for many councils on an annual basis.

Why do we do it?

- Scouting has always played a major role in assisting the nation when in need. During World War 2, Scouts recycled car tires and metal for the war effort in Europe.
- In the 1960's, Scouts collected paper, glass and aluminum as the country began to emphasize the need to take care of our environment and to reuse certain products to reduce the size of our landfills.
- Today, with Scouting membership over 2.5 million nationwide, we can and do have a major impact in helping families and children in need get enough food to eat on a daily basis.

- Today, the need to help hungry families is greater than ever!

What impact does it have on our local community?

- Over the last 29 years, Scouting for Food has put over +10 million containers of food on the shelves of pantries across the council. Many smaller food pantries are dependent solely on the efforts of Scouts in collecting food for the community.
- Scouting for Food is the largest single day food collection program in the state of Wisconsin.

For the next meeting, have each Scout bring in something to share about hunger. It can be a picture, an article in a magazine or newspaper, a container of food or some other related piece of information.

2nd Week of October

- Have each Scout share what they brought in related to hunger and/or Scouting for Food.
- Ask them how they feel when they are really hungry. Imagine how they would feel if they could not get enough food or none at all for a day or two.
- As a group, discuss how the den/patrol is going to promote to their neighborhood the distribution of food bags and promotion.
- Have each person draw up a sample poster and decide which one is the best to copy and put out in the neighborhood store windows, post office, grocery store and other areas where people will see it.
- Have the boys set a goal on how many containers they think they can collect and how many containers can be put in one bag.

AND/OR

- Visit food pantry.
- After the visit ask the Scouts what they learned about the pantry.
- Have each Scout write a little thank you to the pantry leadership for what they do to help the community.

THEN

- Review, with a community map, the areas the Scouts will be covering for food bag distribution. Remind them that each Scout is to be in complete uniform and when possible, knock on the door to “personally” deliver the food bag.
- Review the safety procedures, meeting times and locations, what adults will be accompanying the Scouts, and other logistical information that is needed to finalize the food drive for your unit. Remind them of their goal.

2nd Saturday of October or the days around it

- Distribute food bags!

3rd Saturday of October

- The **same** Scouts should work the **same** neighborhood collecting the filled bags. This helps to truly bring the effort full circle and demonstrates how their efforts and the generosity of the community fills an important need throughout the area. Take collected food bags to local food pantry or collection point.
- Log your Service hours on the Journey to Excellence website www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence and watch local news for total food collection results.