



OCCONEECHEE COUNCIL, BSA
SERVING NORTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE PARENTS, WORKFORCE & LEADERS



Scouting for Food

“Scouting’s Largest One-Day Food Drive”

November 11-18, 2023

Unit Leader Guide

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Scouting for Food Facts

Q. What is "Scouting for Food?"

A. "Scouting for Food" is one of the nation's largest single-day food drive efforts. It began as a Scout's service project in St. Louis in 1985 and was adopted by the National Organization in 1988. The goal is to help feed the hungry of our communities.

Q. When does it take place?

A. Scouting for Food in Occoneechee Council takes place on the third Saturday of November.

- **Saturday, November 11th** is Distribution Day. Approximately 5,000 door hangers/bags will be delivered to homes throughout Occoneechee Council's 12-county service area. A printable template for door hangers will be provided.
- **Saturday, November 18th** is Collection Day. Starting at 9am, Scouts blanket our communities, collecting food donated by residents. Scouts then deliver the food to collection sites, where it is counted/weighed, packed and readied for delivery to food pantries.

Q. Why do we participate in Scouting for Food?

A. As an organization, Scouting teaches youth the value of helping others and giving back to their communities. By collecting food for people in need, Scouts are "doing a good turn" and "helping other people," key elements of the Scout Oath and slogan.

Q. Where does the donated food go?

A. We have a partnership with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, or your unit may choose to donate to a different food pantry. We ask that you fill out the form indicating where you plan to donate just so we can give the food bank an idea of how many folks may be checking in.

After the Scouts collect the food bags, they deliver them to a local drop-off location where volunteers sort and box the food to be delivered to local food pantries. Your donated food will help feed people in (Chatham, Cumberland, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Lee, Moore, Orange, Vance, Wake and Warren Counties) - at no charge to them.

Please share your total participants and pounds of food collected with us! We want to ensure we have an accurate total of what is collected.

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Q. My unit already has Scouting for Food planned for a different time, how does that work?

A. We understand that some units have an established Scouting for Food effort and would very much like to include your unit's success in the total donated for our council's Scouting for Food efforts while ensuring another unit isn't canvassing areas already worked. [Please fill out the registration form](#) and indicate in the notes when your unit's Scouting for Food effort will take place. Please understand that some resources for the November effort may not be as readily available for units participating outside the November 11th-18th window.

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2023 “Scouting for Food” Unit Chair Position Description and Timeline

August/September

- Attend Scouting For Food Virtual Kick Off on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm **OR** watch the recording.
- Sign your unit up to participate in “Scouting for Food” by **Friday, September 22nd.** – [Click here](#) for the Google Form or copy this link into your browser - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSena8PNKHzMJMlgePiCONzj7HzmB3mITTWTEfBPhFEPLedjIQ/viewform>
- Sign your unit up for a specific area of coverage. Work with your District’s “Scouting for Food” Chair to identify an area for your unit. Make sure it’s the right size for your unit.
- Recruit unit parents/leaders to drive vehicles for door hanger distribution day and collection day. Please note: No Scouts are to be driven in the back of pickup trucks.

October

- Pick up your “Scouting for Food” door hangers at the October Roundtable. A customizable printable template will also be available if you prefer to print on your own.
- Make sure leaders/parents/Scouts receive detailed instructions and copies of your area map. Make sure they have the appropriate number of hangers.

November

- Make sure all homes in your area receive a door hanger on distribution day, November 11th. It is imperative that door hangers/bags are distributed that day – not earlier or later – as it will coincide with our publicity efforts.
- Do not put hangers/bags in or on mailboxes. Please place hangers/bags at front doors.
- Make sure your same assigned area is combed for bags of food on collection day, which is November 18th. Do not start earlier than 9am and please try to be done picking up bags by noon.
- Be prepared to shuttle your collected food to your District’s collection site.
- On the collection day, also pull any remaining door hangers off front porches so they can be recycled.
- Please note it is encouraged that after you comb your area, re-sweep the neighborhood, as some residents will remember to put a bag out later in the day.
- Make sure all collected food is delivered to your **District’s collection site by 2pm.**
- Be sure to report your number of youths who participated, the total pounds collected, and organization to which the donation was made to your District SFF Chair or District Executive.

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- Don't forget to enter your service hours in the system. Contact your District Scouting for Food Chair or your District Executive if you need assistance. Enter the number of Scouts and adults who participated on both days and time you spent on the project. This way, your unit gets full credit for the service it has completed

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Keys to Success

“I’m the ‘Scouting for Food’ Chair for my unit... now what?”

Attend (virtually) the council’s Scouting for Food Kick Off on August 16th:

- During the “Scouting for Food” Kick Off, you’ll get some great ideas for how to present this service project to your unit. (*agenda included in this packet*)
- Turn in your unit’s “Scouting for Food” commitment form, found here -
- Confirm your unit’s distribution area

Before your next Unit Meeting:

- Prepare maps and materials for your Scouts and their families
- Contact all Scout families and invite them to your unit’s “Scouting for Food” kick off

At your Unit’s “Scouting for Food” Kick Off:

- Lead/coordinate a 5–10-minute unit presentation to inspire your Scouts & families
- Secure their commitment to help with “Scouting for Food”

Attend October’s Roundtable:

- Pick up your units’ door hangers

November 11th

- Coordinate a check-in location for your Scouts/Families. Arrange for refreshments and get them excited for their morning.
- Have families contact you when their area is completed.

November 18th

- Coordinate a check- in location with your Scouts/Families. Arrange for refreshments and get them excited for their morning.
- Remind Scouts to walk door to door in uniform to collect bags
- Have Scouts and Leaders proceed to your District’s collection site

After November 18th

- Celebrate the success of Scouting for Food!

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Scouting for Food - Agenda for Unit Kick Off

Be prepared to lead a 5–10-minute presentation to inspire your Scout families

- Have a large map showing your area and smaller copies for your families.
- With the map, include your contact information and the schedule for both Saturdays.
- Pre-assign streets/neighborhood areas for each family. Scouts should work in pairs.
- Remind Scouts to wear their uniform!

As attendees arrive:

- Greet them and mark every 5th person with a dot sticker on their shirt

Your presentation:

1. Why do we do Scouting for Food?

- Ask marked attendees to stand up (and remain standing). This is a snapshot of our community, look around. Those standing represent the number of people in our community who go to sleep each night on an empty stomach.
- Every day in our community 20% of us seek food assistance.
- Scouting for Food helps to ensure our neighbors and their families will have an adequate food supply.

2. What can we do to help make this important project successful?

- We need 100% family support for Scouting for Food!
- Scouts that place the door hangers/bags November 11th should return to same homes to collect food on November 18th.

3. Collection Tips

- Arrange for a collection box at places of worship, schools, home-owners associations, apartment/condo clubhouses and offices.

4. Review Schedule for Saturday, November 11th

- Meet at unit assembly location for instructions and refreshments
- Go to your assigned neighborhood to distribute hangers/bags
- Call your unit leader when you have completed your assigned area

5. Schedule for Saturday, November 18th

- Meet at unit assembly location for instructions and refreshments
- After 9am, return to your assigned neighborhood to collect bags
- Deliver your bags to your District's collection site

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Unit Participation Roster

Fill this out prior to arriving at your District's collection site.
Make copies as needed.

District:	Unit Type:	Unit #:
Unit Leader:		
Scouts	First	Last
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