



Dear Unit Leader:

Thank you for participating in the Michigan Crossroads Council's 12th Annual Scouting for Food drive. Scouts throughout the 68 counties of our council come together in November every year for this two-day service project. It is impressive what can be done when we work together. More than 1.6 million pounds of food has been collected during its 11-year history.

Our Good Turn has a positive impact on the community. Food banks and pantries are stocked for the winter months and Scouts have an opportunity to see how community service and volunteerism make a difference. This is truly an outstanding project.

Scouting for Food is as successful as you make it. Be sure everyone knows your plan and expectations. Work your assigned area completely. If you are unable to cover your entire assigned area, contact your District Scouting for Food Chairperson. The public looks forward to being a part of our Good Turn and people can be disappointed when they are overlooked.

To assist you, we have prepared this Unit Information Guide. Please review the materials thoroughly. If you have any questions, contact your District Scouting for Food Chairperson, District Executive or the Scouting for Food Council Committee Chair, Jason Richter.

Yours in Scouting,

Jason A. Richter

Jason A. Richter
Scouting for Food
Committee Chairperson
Michigan Crossroads Council

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2024 GOOD TURN

This is the Michigan Crossroads Council's 12th annual Scouting for Food Good Turn, and as a national event it continues to be one of the largest single-day canned food drives in the United States. During its 11-year history, Scouts have collected more than 1.6 million pounds of food.

The 2024 campaign begins on **Saturday, November 2nd**. Scouts will go door-to-door distributing custom-made plastic grocery bags or flyers in some districts. On **Saturday, November 9th**, Scouts will return to those neighborhoods to collect bags filled with canned/boxed goods. The timing of the campaign coincides with the spirit of giving and appreciation associated with the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday season.

What: An area-wide food drive conducted to support agencies that provide food to those in need. The Michigan Crossroads Council conducts this food drive in 68 counties across the lower peninsula of Michigan.

When: Saturday, November 2, 2024 – Distribution Day
 Saturday, November 9, 2024 – Food Collection Day

How: On a district by district basis, packs, troops, ships, crews and posts are assigned geographic areas in which they distribute bags and a week later, return to collect bags filled with canned/boxed goods. Units deliver the food to a central collection site, a food bank or food pantry.

Food Bank Involvement:

Each District SFF Committee Chairperson should work with registered units to verify and guarantee that they have a food bank or food pantry (large or small) to drop the collected donations off at on Saturday, November 9, 2024. At this time Michigan Crossroads Council is partnering with the below organizations to help during collection day. These organizations also work with hundreds of pantries throughout their service area. District SFF Chairpersons will be requested to work with these food banks and their partner pantries to make the collection day as smooth as possible.

Partner Food Banks:

Gleaners

- ★ Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Monroe

South Michigan Food Bank

- ★ Kalamazoo in 2024 and agreed upon food pantries the service area

Food Gatherers

- ★ Washtenaw

Greater Lansing Food Bank

- ★ Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Isabella and Shiawassee

Feeding America West Michigan

- ★ Allegan, Antrim, Benzie, Berrien, Cass, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Ionia, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Van Buren and Wexford.

UNIT CHAIRPERSON RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Accept responsibility for your unit's participation in Scouting for Food. Please inform your District's Scouting for Food Chair if you are unable to cover your entire assigned area.
2. Actively lead your unit on Saturday, November 2nd, and on Saturday, November 9th, 2024.
3. Attend District Briefing Meeting (usually October Roundtable) and secure all needed information and collection supplies. Review the map of the unit's assigned collection territory and make assignments.
4. Be sure that the entire territory is covered. Ensure that Scouts will deliver a bag to all households in the assigned territory on Saturday, November 2nd.
5. Arrange for collection of filled bags from households in the same assigned territory on Saturday, November 9th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. (**NO EARLIER TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO SET OUT THEIR BAGS**)

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

Take the food collected to the designated district collection stations in your city/county or to assigned local food banks/pantries. This must be done by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday November 9th. **PLEASE GO BACK THROUGH YOUR ASSIGNED AREA BEFORE YOUR FINAL DROP OFF. EACH YEAR SOME BAGS ARE MISSED OR ARE SET OUT LATE.**

6. Collect data on canned/boxed food donated or total pounds, gather information on local sponsors and enter data on the **MCC Campaign Tracking form**. Please submit this form or a picture of the form to the MCC Scouting for Food Committee Chairperson, Jason Richter, by Monday, November 11th, 2024. The email is scoutingforfood@michiganscouting.org

UNIT GAME PLAN

All units should know their assigned territory. Contact your District Scouting for Food Chairperson if you do not know your territory assignment by October 25th, 2024.

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

Select an assembly place and time for November 2nd and November 9th -- **e.g.**, unit's regular meeting place or other convenient, central location. Be sure everyone is aware of the meeting time and location.

On November 2nd

- ★ Assemble ahead of time. Brief the adults and Scouts and distribute the bags/flyers.
- ★ Scouts should leave the bags/flyers on the doors or anywhere on the front porch that is visible to the homeowner. **DO NOT enter any home. DO NOT put the bags in the mailbox. DO NOT enter onto any property that has a sign stating no soliciting.**
- ★ Bags should be distributed to residences only, no businesses.
- ★ Vehicles should stay as close to Scouts as possible when not parked. Adults should walk the streets to supervise.
- ★ Adults will follow all State of Michigan traffic laws while driving and all children will be properly secured within a moving vehicle as required by State of Michigan law.
- ★ Remind adults and Scouts about the Food Collection Day on November 9, 2024.

On November 9th

- ★ Assemble ahead of time. Brief the adults and Scouts and collect filled bags.
- ★ **DO NOT** begin bag collection before 9:30 a.m. This allows families time to place food outside.
- ★ Have your group cover the same area in which they distributed bags/flyers. Many homes are missed when one group distributes bags, but then a different group collects the food from the same street.
- ★ Collection stations should be open from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. At the collection stations, adults and Scouts will help unload the food.

**PLEASE COVER YOUR TERRITORY BY CAR IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON
TO COLLECT BAGS MISSED DURING THE MORNING PICK UP.**

UNIT TERRITORY

1. Your unit should work its assigned territory only. It is crucial that you cover your assigned area thoroughly. As residents get used to getting SFF bags each year they may become disappointed if they are missed.
2. On boundary streets, collect on your side of the street only (unless given other instructions to assist from the distributing unit).
3. Skip apartment units with controlled access and "No Solicitation" rules. Scouts should NOT enter a building with multiple units, but with a single entry that would allow a Scout to be out of sight from the street.
4. Collect from private homes only. Do not solicit from grocery stores or other commercial establishments. If your unit will be at a grocery store passing out bags please seek the approval of the MCC SFF Committee. Please contact the MCC SFF Committee Chairperson to inquire at scoutingforfood@michiganscouting.org
5. Be certain Scouts are in full uniform, travel with parents/guardians only, and are adequately supervised. This is especially true for Cub Scouts.
6. Go over Safe Scouting/Youth Protection with adults and Scouts.
7. Collection bags/flyers should be distributed door-to-door on Saturday, November 2nd, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Place bags/flyers on a door handle or between a storm door and entry door. Do not put them in mailboxes, which is against the law.
8. Do not tie bags on doors in such a way that people cannot open their doors.
9. Food must be collected on Saturday, November 9th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. or later. Collect food from the same exact area where you distributed bags. Food should be turned into your district collection station(s) - local food bank/pantry. Collection stations will be open from 9:30/10 a.m. to 2:00/3:00 p.m. and may have Scouting personnel assisting at the collection station.
10. If you have any questions, contact your District Scouting for Food Chair or the MCC Scouting for Food Committee Chairperson at scoutingforfood@michiganscouting.org

HELP PROMOTE SCOUTING FOR FOOD THROUGH YOUR UNIT

Dear Leader:

Here are four easy ways to help spread the word about Scouting for Food through your Unit:

- ★ Use the enclosed two-paragraph or four-paragraph newsletter item, and ask the editor of your local school newspaper, city/township newspaper, or your house of worship's bulletin to publish it.
- ★ Ask to speak to your school PTA or PTO, or your congregation about the importance of Scouting for Food. Enclosed are presentation points that include all the necessary information on the Scouting for Food campaign.
- ★ Create Scouting for Food flyers for bulletin boards throughout your local school, public library or places of worship. Check with your District Scouting for Food Chair for any flyers that may be created already.
- ★ Use Facebook, Instagram, X or other social media platforms to create awareness among your friends/family.

PRESENTATION POINTS

- ★ In Michigan, it is estimated that 1 out of 9 people will go without food each day. This means more than 1 million people are experiencing food insecurity.
- ★ 1 out of 8 children in Michigan face hunger each day.
- ★ Scouting for Food, which was started in 1985 by the Greater St. Louis Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, has since grown into one of the nation's most successful single-day food drives (see the page on history).
- ★ Last year, MCC Scouts collected 81,000 pounds of food for area food pantries. The food drive has collected more than 1.6 million pounds of food since its inception under MCC.
- ★ This year Scouts will distribute Scouting for Food bags/flyers throughout neighborhoods in the Michigan Crossroads Council on Saturday, November 2, 2024.
- ★ They will return the following Saturday, November 9, 2024, to collect the filled bags.
- ★ Any canned food item you can donate would be greatly appreciated. To donate by phone, text **SCOUTING4FOOD to 91999** – all monetary donations will go directly to Scouting America, Michigan Crossroads Council, Scouting for Food campaign.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NEWSLETTER ITEM #1

(Cub pack, Scout troop, Sea Scout ships, Venturing crew, Explorer post # _____)
 sponsored by (_____
 needs your help - and so do thousands of hungry people in our community.

Our Scouts are participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive this fall. The 2024 food drive will take place on two consecutive Saturdays. On November 2nd, Scouts will place plastic bags at doorsteps throughout counties within the Michigan Crossroads Council. The following Saturday, November 9th, Scouts will return to pick up the filled bags. Food donated in a particular area will be distributed to food pantries in that area. To donate by phone, text **SCOUTING4FOOD to 91999** – all monetary donations will be donated to Scouting America, Michigan Crossroads Council, Scouting for Food campaign.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD NEWSLETTER ITEM #2

(Cub pack, Scout troop, Sea Scout ships, Venturing crew, Explorer post # _____)
 sponsored by (_____
 needs your help - and so do thousands of hungry people in our community.

Our Scouts are participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive this fall. The 2024 food drive will take place on two consecutive Saturdays. On November 2nd, Scouts will place plastic bags at doorsteps throughout counties within the Michigan Crossroads Council. The following Saturday, November 9th, Scouts will return to pick up the filled bags. Food donated in a particular area will be distributed to food pantries in that area. This year the Scouts hope to match or better the success of last year's food drive - which resulted in 81,000 pounds of food being collected. Your help is desperately needed. Please be sure to look for your Scouting for Food bag on November 2nd and fill it with any canned/boxed food items that you can donate. Scouts will collect the bags from your doorstep on November 9th. To donate by phone, text **SCOUTING4FOOD to 91999** – all monetary donations will be donated to Scouting America, Michigan Crossroads Council, Scouting for Food campaign.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD HISTORY

The First Scouting for Food

In preparation for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the BSA in 1985, the former St. Louis Area Council Scout Executive and CEO Bob Meinholtz challenged his staff to develop a new and noteworthy program feature.

They seized upon the idea of a local Eagle Scout project to collect food for those in need. The council had never tried anything of this scope in the past, nor was it aware of any organization that had. Delivering collection bags to nearly every home in 11 counties and then collecting, compiling, and distributing an unknown amount of food seemed a daunting, perhaps impossible, task.

The initial success of Scouting for Food can be attributed to the leadership of Dennis Long and the Anheuser-Busch Company. They devoted considerable time and resources to making this ground-breaking idea a reality. Fire departments throughout the area enthusiastically came on board as collection sites, partner food pantries were identified, and the 892nd Transportation Company of the 102nd Army Reserve Command agreed to provide food transport through the St. Louis metropolitan area. That first year Scouts collected 750,000 cans of food.

A Legacy of Service

What was intended to be a one-time service project quickly became our hallmark. The council's executive board determined that Scouting for Food is a perfect example of Scouting's values and set about to make it an annual affair.

In 1989, with St. Louis as a model, the Boy Scouts of America adopted Scouting for Food as a national BSA program and encouraged every council to participate.

Scouting for Food has continued annually since its beginning in 1985 as a signature service event throughout the now 63 counties served by the Greater St. Louis Area Council. In 2019, the drive collected approximately 1.9 million food items.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created a unique challenge to the drive, but Scouts were still able to make a big impact. Over \$50,000 was raised via a text-to-give campaign, equalling approximately 200,000 meals provided to local families in need. We were also able to collect and donate over 145,000 food items to local pantries.

In 2022, 1,707,022 million items were collected in the Greater St. Louis Area Council!

