

SCOUTING FOR FOOD FRONT YARD FOOD DRIVE



Hi Scouters. Thanks for your interest in getting more information on how to run a safe and successful Scouting for Food campaign during the Covid-19 quarantine. This includes both Front Yard Food Drives and two weekends of a Drive Thru Food Drive. This first document covers the Front Yard Food Drives. A second document will cover the addition of the Drive Thru Food Drive.

I am looking forward to helping other units and communities duplicate our success. I have gotten a lot of emails today asking about tricks and such so I put together a word doc with the whole process broken down with pix and signs included you can customize.

Our Scouting for Food Campaign for Potawatomi Area Council in Southeastern Wisconsin was scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd weekends in March and was cancelled when our Governor issued his Safer at Home order and our kids were out of school at this time. This had a devastating effect on our local Food Pantry as well as those all over our area including Milwaukee.



A sister of one of our Troop Boy Scouts had her own front yard food drive with her Girl Scout Troop and this is what sparked our participation. We learned a lot through this process and hope that the following tips help. What works for us, may not work for your units, but some of it, such as our advice on advertising, signage, placement, etc. are extremely effective and will work no matter what you end of doing.

We tweaked a lot over the two weeks and couldn't believe the success. Our plan in Germantown is to make this the standard for our Scouting for Food campaigns in the future since our grocery stores stopped printing Scouting for Food bags for us this year. We collected twice as much food using Front Yard Food Drives and our Drive Thru Food Drive as we did for Scouting for Food in 2019 and collected over \$2,000 in monetary donations. The money was used by the food pantry to purchase frozen ground beef and items we didn't collect. We also didn't receive a fraction of the expired food we normally get when people clean out their cupboards. The Drive Thru really helped with that because people were purchasing their donations right in the store. The following is a breakdown of what we did and tips & tricks to make your Front Yard Food Drive successful. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

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FRONT YARD FOOD DRIVES

1. GETTING STARTED

Run it by your committee, then reach out to the other Packs, Troops, and crews in your community or town and see if they would be interested in participating. It is a great way to participate in Scouting for Food as its safer for the Scouts. By doing Front Yard Food Drives, everyone can participate without going door to door. Our own community plans to do the front yard food drives next year in the week between the two weekends of SFF.

Use the Bryan on Scouting blog from BSA National and Scouting Magazine to show we have National support and example of the overall campaign for Scouting for Food during quarantine.

https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/04/24/with-front-yard-and-drive-thru-donations-scouts-keep-scouting-for-food-going/?fbclid=IwAR2fdHj8l8XPfl6fT0HZkNb18qiYzPre-z0_3r8SDYAomQXZQ0j_xffhzxE



2. TIMING IS EVERYTHING & WHICH PANTRY WILL YOU BE ASSISTING?

Consider *when* you want to do your Front Yard Food Drive and which food pantry will you be helping. Reach out to your local food pantry where you plan to donate the food and find out what works best for them. Find out:

- When they are open?
- Do they have a contact person your Pack or Troop can work with?
- How would they like the food delivered?
- With the potential of many families participating, do they have a certain day they would like the food delivered to their facility so they can sort it out.
- Do they have a list of food they really need or prefer that your Pack or Troop can use when advertising?
- Do they need the food sorted prior to dropping it off?
- If a family gets a large amount of food, is there a contact person in your Pack or Troop where they can bring it in the meantime or a way of dropping it off early to the pantry.



These questions should be answered before choosing the dates of your Front Yard Food Drive so your families know when to start and end and where to bring the food. This will help keep momentum going and your families won't be waiting around with all that food with no idea where to take it.

We initially started with two weekends and the week between. This gives scouts and their families time to make their signs, decorate their bins, and set up their Front Yard Food Drive. It also gives time for the neighbors to see it and come back to contribute. If you don't give it enough time, some potential contributors may not get a chance to see and donate before your bin is gone. Also, by covering two weekends, with parents working and kids doing school from home, gives them the time to empty the bins and deliver the food, something we will cover at the end of this.

3. REACHING OUT TO THE SCOUT FAMILIES

Below is an example of the email I sent to my Pack and Troop once our committee was on board with participating. You can copy and paste if you like and change it to reflect your own information. Keep in mind this email was sent for both the Front Yard Food Drive and Drive Thru Food Drive.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Hello Scouts and Scout Families. According to the Scout Oath we all take at our meetings, a Scout is "help other people at all times." Our Scout Law says a Scout is Helpful, Friendly, Courteous and Kind as well. We have decided to use that time in another positive manner. With the overwhelming numbers of our neighbors who are out of work due to Covid-19, our Food Pantries are in desperate need of our help. Losing income and not having access for some to school lunches, has been devastating to so many. So, this is how we are asking you and all the other Packs and Troops in our community to help. We are modeling a new way of running a Scouting for Food campaign based on a hugely successful one another community from Wisconsin did. It was even featured nationally with Bryan on Scouting's blog through Scouting Magazine. So here is how you can help.

1. We are holding a "Front Yard Food Drive." Attached are flyers, and graphics you can print at home. If you don't have access to a printer, let me know. The idea is, put a plastic tub with a lid, or a large cardboard box or laundry in your front yard. If you have a sidewalk or mailbox place it near that. Especially at the end of your driveway. Chalk your walk to advertise too! Your neighbors to put food in the bins through the end of the month Between 6-7 on Sunday, either bring your food to XXXXXXXXX where we will collect and sort it, or...to the Food Drive Thru we are working on.
2. We have gotten permission to run a Drive Thru Food Drive at XXXXXXXXX Saturday and Sunday. We will have separate signage for that.
3. Please plaster your social media with the attached picture. I will also put it on the Pack/Troop Facebook page, and you can share it from there. If you have Instagram, or any other, please help us advertise. Don't wait for the weekend if you can, get your bin out now. As all your neighbors are walking around, they will see it and hopefully add to your bin the next day. Make it loud and proud, colorful, and visible. Once you do, please share your pix on Facebook so we can all see where the Front Yard Food Drives are. The media will also be contacted, so they will be looking for the bins too. If I know where they are, I can send them your way!!! I would also like to have some pix to share with the media too, so send them my way!

4. GET ONLINE!

Today, everyone is on some sort of social media. Contact me to customize your own Facebook graphic or create your own. Square shapes in colors that are bright stand out in a person's feed. Square single pictures also don't get automatically cropped. You want to grab their attention!

Contact me if you would like me to customize any of these graphics for your own Food Drive. I can send it to you quickly. Text or Facebook messenger are the fastest way to get ahold of me.



5. INVOLVE YOUR LOCAL POLITICIANS, CHURCHES & SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS!

This is Pastor Greg Young, who is also a member of the Milwaukee FBI and Germantown Police Dept. He contacted us for his own signs after seeing our food drive online. He has emptied about 4 bins worth of food with us already!



Greg Young

April 19 at 1:09 PM · 🌐

Hi Everyone! This has been extended through the end of April. I dropped a full container and a check by those collecting for St. Boniface Food Pantry today, and the turnout is great but the need is even greater these days as you can imagine. So...I have placed the container at the end of our drive. PM me if you want my address to drop something off. Members and friends of Our Saviour's Ucc, I am going arrange for any of you who want to drop off canned goods at the church, I will collect them and then take everything to the drop off next Sunday afternoon.

Blessings!



This is Wisconsin State Representative Dan Knodl. He saw our posts on Facebook and then contacted our committee chair, who ran a bin over to him and he has blasted all his constituents. He collected so much! He also blasted his social media and all his constituents with our service project which helped with advertising!



6. KEEP SPREADING THE NEWS WITH OTHER PACKS & TROOPS

Keep spreading the idea to other local Packs and Troops. We did this within a week of starting our Front Yard Food Drives and another community 5 times the size of ours started their own in Waukesha, WI. This is a Wolf scout from Pack #5575 who's mom reached out to me after seeing the post on Bryan on Scouting. Our hope for the blog was to spread the news and get more Scouting communities on board. It doesn't take much for us to make such a HUGE difference! This Cub Scout set his Front Yard Food Drive up within 24 hours of his mom reaching out for details and look how much he has collected so far!

He did a fantastic job of painting his own signs and making use of his lemonade stand to make his food drive even more visible! That one Wolf Scout and his mom spread the news and got more of their Pack involved. Below are a few of the results of that!



7. KEEP RECORD!

Make sure you have your Scouts count their items and double check that none of their items are expired. Also record any volunteer hours spent setting up their food drive or manning it like the boys by the table here. Report those hours to your Pack or Troop's Scouting for Food Chair and make sure those total items and hours are reported to your Council for Journey to Excellence as well as Scouting for Food.

8. DELIVERING THE FOOD

Your Pack SFF representative should have set a date and time to deliver the food from your Front Yard Food Drive. This may be a matter of someone with the keys opening the doors, or an outdoor drop off place. This is something that should be prearranged and scheduled at the time the SFF FYFD is announced to the Pack/Troop. Having a clear time and place to deliver is key.



Let your groups know that Scouts and Leaders should be wearing uniforms and masks when possible while delivering the food. Keep in mind any pictures that are taken are often shared on social media. Wearing uniforms shows we are Scouts in action being helpful and kind. Wearing PPE shows we are protecting those around us while delivering the food, regardless of personal opinions. Ultimately its up to your leadership and parents, but we want to keep these kids safe as well as those we are helping. These are pictures I just received from Pack #5575 in Tacoma, Washington as they delivered their food to their local Pantry! So proud of these Scouts!



THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING AND STAY SAFE & HAVE FUN!

EXAMPLES OF FRONT YARD FOOD DRIVES

INVOLVEMENT:

Get your scouts involved. Help them decorate, cut out the signs and tape them on as well as place them outside. No printer? Decorate your own signs!



CONTAINER:

Its best to use a large plastic bin with a lid like Rubbermaid or Sterlite. This will give your food drive a safe place to collect food and protect it from animals and the elements. Laundry baskets or cardboard boxes work too. Just put a sign by the road and your basket by the door. Empty it nightly to protect the food from animals/weather.



SIGNAGE: BIG, COLORFUL & VISIBLE!

Consider what direction people will be coming from while walking through your neighborhood. Tape a sign over an old yard sale sign, get creative!

LOCATION:

Place your Front Yard Food Drive near the end of the driveway by your mailbox or sidewalk. If you live in a condo or an apartment, you can still put out a bin or two on the sidewalk by your gate if your HOA is okay with it.



CHALK YOUR WALK!

People are all looking at the chalk signs kids and adults are drawing. Make your OWN LEADING TO your food drive bin!



SIGNS FOR BINS

You can use these graphics to print and cut out to use to decorate your bin if you wish.

**FRONT
YARD**

**FOOD
DRIVE**



**#SCOUT
STRONG**



**PLEASE
DONATE**

