

Scouting for Food Campaign Timeline



Scouting for Food occurs on the first Saturday of February each year, although individual units may participate earlier in the program year if it better fits their schedule.

The timeline can be adjusted to fit your unit's schedule or to work around the parameters that best fit your program; this is a suggested timeline which will aid your Pack, Troop, or Crew in executing an efficient and successful Scouting for Food campaign.

January is a month of preparation. Your Service or Scouting for Food chair will identify which community food bank you are taking donations to, inform that food bank and gather their hours of operation, pick up boxes or cases from the food bank to deliver the collections in as needed, and prepare the unit schedule for the campaign. This should only take a couple hours of concentrated work for the Scouting for Food Chair to prepare, although they will have several small tasks spread out, so please do not procrastinate!

Following the traditional campaign, units or individual Scouts canvas their neighborhood to notify homes of the collection to occur the following Saturday. Scouts may collect as they notify homes, or just leave a flyer a few days in advance. Most units promote SFF in their neighborhoods over an hour or two the Saturday before the big day, or during their regularly scheduled meeting that week. Some units also have their scouts canvas their own neighborhood and bring their collections to the next Scout meeting. Additional alternative plans for the campaign are addressed in the FAQs.

On the first Saturday of February, units will revisit those homes, gather food left at the door, and reconvene to consolidate their donations to be delivered at the foodbank of your choice. Most units gather and deliver their food collection over 2-3 hours on the Saturday morning of the big day.

In the week after the campaign, units will go to www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/food to report the total food poundage collected, participation, and number of patches they would like! This takes minutes.

TIMELINE CHECKLIST

January - Week 1 - Develop your unit's plan:

- Identify your unit's Scouting for Food Chair ("SFF Chair")
- Review the Scouting for Food Toolkit at www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/food
- Establish your unit's goal for food collected:
 - 15 pounds per scout is the Council goal, which equates to approximately 16 cans.
- Select which tactic(s) your unit wants to follow to meet its goal:
 - Individual Scout door-to-door collections from immediate neighbors
 - Traditional group door-to-door collection in a targeted neighborhood
 - Promotion and placement of collection boxes at unit chartering organization, or at scouts' schools or religious institutions
 - Flyers and placement of collection boxes at unit parents' places of work
- Plan efforts to promote Scouting for Food in your neighborhood, at charter organizations, schools, religious institutions and stores.
- Review our Social Media guide on www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/food
- Identify which food bank your donations will go to: www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/food

January - Week 2 - Become Prepared - check plan and materials:

- If your plan includes group door-to-door in a targeted area:
 - Define the area/community/neighborhood that your unit will canvas.
 - Define any sub-groupings that your dens or patrols can split up to “divide and conquer” as they canvas the area.
 - Practice door to door scripts with the scouts.
 - Pick up your door flyers at Council or at your District Roundtable meeting.
- If your plan includes using collection boxes:
 - Pick up collection boxes from your Food Bank.
 - Distribute to any schools, houses of worship, or chartered organizations that are supporting.
 - Distribute to the volunteers with trucks/trailers who will be delivering the collections to the food banks.
- Determine how food will be delivered to the food bank:
 - Which leader with a truck/trailer be able to deliver the food once consolidated?
 - What time will you have the food delivered to the food bank, and have you informed the food bank?

January - Weeks 3 to 4 - Be Prepared:

- Complete any tasks not completed from Week 2.
- Begin to collect and assemble food for delivery to food bank and deliver, as necessary.
- Practice door to door scripts with your scouts!

End of January - First Saturday of February - The Big Week:

- Work your collection plan!
- The day of collections
 - Meet in the morning and split into groups to canvas your area door to door.
 - Have leaders follow in a vehicle to gather food so scouts do not need to carry.
- Assemble at a collection point to consolidate all foods to be delivered to the food bank in one trip.
- Weigh food gathered at the Food Bank.

The week after - Finish Strong

- Ensure your unit has met its personal goal of food collected.
- Report your total collections at www.grandcanyonbsa.org/food
- Arrange to pick up Scout patches from your District Executive.
- Ensure that all food collected has been gathered, weighed, recorded, reported, and delivered to a food bank.
- Log on to www.My.Scouting.org to report your service hours
- Visit www.GrandCanyonBSA.org/Food to report total pounds of food collected, patches needed, and feedback!