

Thank You!

Thank you for participating in the 2017 Seneca Waterways Council annual Scouting for Food service project. Together with our partners Mark's Pizza, and our friend TOPS Markets, we are hoping to have a stellar result in our food and clothing drive!

Last year the Council collected over 67 TONS of food in that short 3 – 4 hour window! That is over 130,000 pounds of food!

While our results are great, believe it or not, the need is even greater! Local food pantries and cupboards have been noticing for years a steady decline in food donations, and as a result, they have not been able to serve as many as are in need.

THANK YOU again, to you and all participants in your unit for participating in the annual SFF drive and for following the guidelines in this "handbook".

As you read through this guide and follow its instructions and please be diligent about doing your best to adhere to them. These are best practices. In particular, please impress upon your unit that taking your time and covering your route carefully and even covering your route twice will yield a better result and fewer mistakes. **Please don't rush through the process.** Did you know that every year the Council receives nearly 100 complaints from the community regarding this project? Usually, it is missed pick-ups, but every year we also field calls regarding items that SHOULD NOT be picked up and even inappropriate behavior on the part of our Scouts!

## UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

To prepare for an exceptional Scouting for Food event, please take care to use this guide and follow the instructions below:

- Pick up all materials from your District Coordinators no later than March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. All materials (door hangars, lawn signs, etc.) will be available at the March Roundtable in every District.
- Check with and confirm with your District Scouting for Food chairperson your assigned territory.
- Determine an assembly location for both the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. (It is suggested that you use your regular meeting place or another convenient location.)  
**On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Assemble at a time early enough to brief Scouts and adults on your procedures and best practices.
- No solicitation of funds or promotion of events is allowed during this drive.
- **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT to make sure all of the youth are IN UNIFORM for both the drop off and collection dates.**
- **Place all yard signs in VISIBLE locations** in the area that your unit will be collecting food. **DO NOT place lawn signs before the 12<sup>th</sup>.**
- Place a door hanger at each residence that you are assigned. Try to pick the door closest to the driveway. Units will designate specific streets for each den or family to canvass. Remember, your unit has been assigned an area by the District and it is expected that your areas be covered. **Door hangers can be distributed starting at 9:00 AM. Please do not disturb residents before this time.**
- Have enough vehicles for the number of youth participating. (Use all safety precautions in securing drivers). Use SFF signs on the sides of vehicles to help identify the event.
- Have copies of your maps available for all drivers. Highlight each driver's area to cover.
- All youth should travel in groups of two or more...use the buddy system!
- Vehicles should stay as close to the Scouts as possible. It is advisable for adults to be on the streets with the Scouts. No riding on the backs of open vehicles.

- **DO NOT put door hangers in or on mailboxes. It is illegal.**
- Door hangers should be distributed to residents only. Avoid businesses or apartment dwellings with “no solicitation” rules unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Have a plan to remind Scouts and adults about the March 19<sup>th</sup> collection of food bags.

**On Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> (Collection Day)**

- Assemble at your meeting place.
- Review plans for the day.
- Place posters on cars to advertise the food and clothing drive.
- **Pick up all yard signs** that were placed in the community by your unit. If you place a sign, pick it up. All signs should be brought to the collection site and left with the Collection site leader. These signs are designed and intended for use for more than one year.
- Be sure to canvas EVERY STREET at which door hangers were delivered. Units must make sure that their assigned areas are covered. Each driver will be asked to confirm that they were able to cover their assigned area at the collection site.
- **ALL SCOUTS SHOULD BE IN UNIFORM FOR BOTH PARTS OF THIS EVENT!**
- **DO NOT collect BEFORE 9:00 am.** The community will be given instructions to put out items for collection BY 9:00. **Collection times are between 9:00 and 2:00 on March 18th, 2016.**
- If there is no bag at or near the door, go on to the next house. If there is more than one food bag, collect it.
- **DO NOT ENTER ANY HOMES.**
- **PLEASE PLAN ON 2-3 PASSES THROUGH YOUR AREA.**
- Make sure that your Scouts are collecting appropriate donations. Check to be sure they are not picking up garbage. **If something looks questionable, it is totally appropriate to knock on a door to confirm items for pick up!**
- Bring all collections to your designated collection site between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. After 3:30, drop all collections off at any Marks Pizza restaurant. As each car arrives, there will be someone at each collection site to confirm the number of youth, adults, service hours and coverage area for the participants in EACH VEHICLE. **Please return all left-over door hangers to your District SFF Chair at the collection site.**

**A Message from Barbara James  
(Council Food Pantry Coordinator)**

Scouting for Food has served more than 75 local food cupboards in Monroe County for over 25 years. It is the only council-wide service project of the Seneca Waterways Council. Since 1988 we have collected over 2800 tons of food and distributed it to local food pantries, where it has helped countless hungry families.

A note from Grace Covenant Church after the 2012 drive is typical: “I cannot begin to thank you enough for the food you gave us.” For many of the food cupboards, Scouting for Food is the major source of donations they receive. Even for agencies that have other sources of donations, Scouting for Food provides a substantial source of food for the summer, when donations from other sources are often minimal.

This annual service project is an excellent way to show our Scouts how easy, and how important, it is to help their neighbors. It is truly a way to put our faith into action.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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## In A Nutshell...

- Safety is our PRIMARY concern! Make sure scouts are using the buddy system and being safe...acting appropriately at all times and dressing appropriately.
- Get your group fired up! Explain to your unit WHY we do this projects and WHY it is important to so many needy families in OUR community! This is not just a city thing...there are food cupboards in EVERY one of our towns!
- Follow all of the expectations for safety and accuracy.
- TAKE YOUR TIME to get through your routes on both drop off and collection days. Make sure the scouts take their time to place bags and hangers in such a way that they will stay on the door. It may take a LITTLE more time...but it is VERY important. PLEASE don't rush through the process.
- Scouts should be in uniform...even if they are wearing coats.
- Put up lawn signs on the 11<sup>th</sup> ...they serve as a reminder.
- Take down lawn signs on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

