



A part of the "Souper Bowl of Caring" benefiting the Houston Food Bank

Saturday, February 6, 2010

For all Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Teams, Venturing Crews & Explorer Posts

What is Scouting for Food?

Scouting for Food is the Sam Houston Area Council's annual "Good Turn" project to help collect food for the needy families in our communities through the "Souper Bowl of Caring" benefiting the Houston Food Bank.

Through this effort:

- ◆ Over 500,000 pounds of food can be collected for local food pantries.
- ◆ 18,000 Cub Scouts, Boys Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers and Explorers have the chance to experience the good feeling that comes from helping others through this good turn project.
- ◆ Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers and Explorers learn that by working together they can make a positive difference in their community.
- ◆ Hundreds of thousands of families get to participate in this community good turn effort to help their neighbors by contributing food donations.

How does it work?

- ◆ Packs, Troops, Teams, Crews, and Posts sign up to participate in Scouting for Food.
- ◆ Packs, troops, teams, crews and posts are assigned a geographic area in their community for door hanger distribution & food pick-up or work at a designated collection point on Saturday, February 6.
- ◆ During the week before the Scouting for Food collection day, members of the units distribute Scouting for Food door hangers to the homes in their geographic area. This announces Scouting for Food to the home owner and helps them prepare for the collection day on February 6.
- ◆ On Scouting for Food collection day, members of the unit return to the homes in their geographic area and pick up the food donations.
- ◆ Collected food is then taken to a designated collection point.
- ◆ The Houston Food Bank or other local food pantry distribute the food to the needy families.

Why get involved?

Facts about hunger:

- ◆ On any given day, 35,000 children, seniors and other adults are hungry and can't afford to buy food.
- ◆ In southeast Texas, 900,000 people live in poverty and are at-risk of food insecurity. One in four of these are children.
- ◆ The Houston Food Bank fights hunger through a network of more than 400 hunger relief charities in southeast Texas. In the last year, the Food Bank has distributed 46 million pounds of nutritious food to these charities.
- ◆ Of the 80,000 people fed each week through the Houston Food Bank, nearly half are children.
- ◆ Volunteers are essential to the Houston Food Bank; in the last year, volunteers donated the equivalent of 90 full-time employees.

How to get involved

1. Have your pack, troop, team, crew or post sign up for Scouting for Food at the district roundtable or by contacting your District Scouting for Food Chairperson
2. Recruit a unit Scouting for Food Chairperson to carry out the following tasks:

Pack, Troop, Team, Crew or Post Scouting for Food Chairperson Job Description

- ◆ Attends the district's Scouting for Food briefing meetings (usually held at monthly roundtables) to receive information, territory assignment and pick up all materials
- ◆ Encourages the use of the Scouting for Food program materials by the unit.
- ◆ Arranges for the distribution of Scouting for Food door hangers, by the members of the unit, to the homes in their assigned territory before the Scouting for Food collection day.
- ◆ Arranges for the collection of donated food, by the members of the unit, from all the participating homes in their assigned territory on the Scouting for Food collection Saturday. (Do not start until after 9:30 a.m.) All food items are delivered to the prearranged food drop off site and a unit report is given to the District Scouting for Food team.

Give special attention to ensure that all homes receiving Scouting for Food door hangers in advance are checked for food donations on Scouting for Food collection Saturday, February 6. Please do not place door hangers in mailboxes - it is against the law. Thank you.