

December 14, 2009



Dear Unit Leader:

At this point in the holiday season we are constantly surrounded by images of joy, excitement and celebration. But even in the midst of this festivity, the Houston Food Bank estimates that on any given day, about 35,000 people in our area are hungry. Almost half of these are children. Through Scouting for Food, we have the opportunity to help alleviate this need.

For the first time, Sam Houston Area Council has joined forces with the Houston Food Bank and the Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this cooperative effort, we can participate in perhaps the largest food drive in southeast Texas history. Our role will be two fold. On Saturday, January 30, our Scouts will pass out door hangers throughout the council, describing the need and announcing the food drive the following week. On February 6, our Scouts will again canvas the neighborhoods, knocking on doors and collecting food that will be delivered directly to food pantries within your community. For other ways to help as well, such as assisting with the unloading at the pantries, please contact your District's Scouting for Food Chair.

It has been a number of years since we have held a council wide Scouting for Food drive. What better time to restore this tradition and what better way to begin our Centennial Year than with a Good Turn that can truly make a difference for our community. But time is short and we need your unit to help make this event successful.

We know that your unit calendar is full but this is a worthy cause and we urge your unit to be a part of it – to enable your Scouts to be a part of it. You either have been or will be contacted soon by your District Scouting for Food Chair for a commitment of at least one day and hopefully both. To assist you with planning, a unit Information package is attached. If you have any questions, please contact your District's Scouting for Food Chair or District Executive.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Welling".

Ed Welling  
Council Scouting for Food Chair

*For more information, contact:*

Orion District Scouting for Food Chair:

Cheryl Strain

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# Scouting for Food/Souper Bowl of Caring

## January 30th and February 6th

### UNIT GUIDELINES:

#### GENERAL

- Determine to what extent your unit will participate in the 2010 Scouting for Food – door hanger distribution day, collection day or both. Estimate the number of Scouts participating each day. Provide this information to the District Scouting for Food Chair at the December Roundtable.
- Go to the January Roundtable to secure your territory map, food drop site location and door hangers.
- Know your assigned territory and work within it. Clearly inform all leaders, parents, youth and other helpers about your unit's boundaries
- All members, both youth and adults should be in uniform
- Use the "Buddy System" at all times. Safety first! Do not go in areas that you feel are unsafe.
- ***BSA prohibits any passengers in the backs of trucks. All Scouts must wear seatbelts in a moving vehicle.***
- Determine an assembly place and time for both **January 30th and February 6<sup>th</sup>** and communicate to the leaders and parents.

#### Saturday, January 30th – DOOR HANGER DISTRIBUTION DAY

- Saturday morning is generally the best door hanger distribution day, but hangers can go out all week. Please note that the hangers provided by the Food Bank do not have the built in "hanger hook". They are the same style as the School night For Scouting flier with the small hole for a rubber band. Rubber bands will be supplied with the hangers.
- Assemble at the meeting place early enough to brief adults and Scouts and to provide adequate time to distribute door hangers to all houses in your assigned area. Provide assignment maps, instructions and safety sheet to each driver.
- Have enough vehicles for the number of boys participating and for the area to be covered.
- Vehicles should stay as close to the Scouts as possible. It is advisable for adults to remain clearly visible.
- Scouts should leave the door hangers at the main entrance to the house or give to the resident. **DO NOT WALK ON THE GRASS OR ON FLOWERBEDS. DO NOT PUT DOOR HANGERS IN OR ON THE MAILBOXES...IT IS ILLEGAL.**
- **DO NOT ENTER HOMES. DO NOT ENTER FENCED YARDS WITH DOGS.**
- Door hangers are to be distributed to residents only. Avoid businesses, apartment dwellings or gated areas with **NO SOLICITATION** rules.

#### Saturday, February 6th –FOOD COLLECTION DAY

- Assemble at your meeting place with appropriate vehicles, leadership, uniforms, maps and instructions to begin the food pickup. Review where/when to reassemble to combine food collected for delivery to your assigned drop site.
- Food must be collected from your assigned area.
- If food has not been placed by the front door, Scouts should knock on the door and explain to the resident that we are collecting food as part of Scouting for Food and the Souper Bowl of Caring.
- Make at least one additional pass through each neighborhood to make sure that all food has been collected. Occasionally late donors will put out bags after the unit has made its first pass.
- Consolidate your collected food into as few vehicles as possible for delivery to your area drop site.
- Count the number of items collected, calculate the total pounds using the reporting form and report to your District Scouting For Food Chairman by 3 pm Saturday, February 6.
- Deliver the food to either the District's assigned food pantry, available from the district SFF Chair or you may deliver it to a food pantry associated with your charter partner)
- Questions/Problems – Contact your District Scouting For Food Chair