

Scouting for Food FACT SHEET



ORIGIN

The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910 because of a "GOOD TURN" performed by an unknown English Scout for publisher William D. Boyce, who was lost in a London fog. Because of this single act of kindness performed by a Scout who sought no reward other than to perform a "GOOD TURN," millions of youth have received the benefit of a Scouting experience since that time. The "GOOD TURN" has been a Scouting tradition since those early days.

In 1988 the first nationwide "Scouting For Food" collection was held. In that first year more than one million Scouts collected an estimated 65 million items of non-perishable food items. The East Texas Area Council, Boy Scouts of America participated in that first Scouting For Food Good Turn and has been coordinating this excellent community service program each year since.

REASONS

As many as 20 million Americans go hungry at least a few days each month. Of these, as many as 4 million are children. Hunger is a growing societal problem of massive proportions and it prevails in all of our communities and rural areas. Requests for food from needy families in some areas has increased by as much as 50%.

There is a critical need to instill in American youth, of all socio-economic levels, the ethic of service to the less fortunate and to teach them the values related to social responsibility. Through the Scouting For Food Good Turn, these values are reinforced in the more than 13,500 registered Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers in the East Texas Area Council.

PLAN

Each year, Scouts of the East Texas Area Council distribute special grocery bags outlining the collection plan and describing the types of food items needed. These are distributed in residential areas in Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Houston, Marion, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rusk, Shelby, Smith, Sabine, Trinity, Upshur, Wood, and San Augustine counties in East Texas.

On the Saturday following the grocery bag distribution, Scouts return to collect the bags left on doorsteps filled with non-perishable food items. These bags are delivered to predetermined collection sites in the neighborhood or community where the collection is taking place. In outlying areas, these sites may vary from local church or community food pantries to social service agencies in the community.

OBJECTIVES

The Scouting for Food Good Turn annually gathers large amounts of non-perishable food items. The Scouting For Food Good Turn comes at a time of great need; as many food pantry shelves are empty or nearly so.

Scouting for Food also creates an indelible exposure of more than 13,500 kids and their leaders to the spirit of altruism and compassion for the basic human needs of critically less fortunate people.

To provide for our members and the community at large the positive feelings that will be generated by participation in one of the largest GOOD TURN ever in the history of the East Texas Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

All food items collected will be distributed to the needy in the community in which they were collected.