

# 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Scouting for Food Campaign

## Boy Scouts of America

### Laurel Highlands Council

Since 1910, “service to others” has been one of the key ideals of Scouting as spelled out in the Scout Oath and Law, defining the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. The Scouting Movement in America started because of the original **Good Turn**.

During Scouting’s 110-year history, Presidents have called on the Boy Scouts to sell Liberty bonds, plant victory gardens, collect food for the hungry, lead scrap metal drives, and much more! Today, Boy Scouts continue their community service by helping people facing hunger in communities in southwestern Pennsylvania.



The national initiative “Good Turn for America” encourages companies, community organizations, and Scouts to be involved in local community-service that fights hunger through their participation in the Laurel Highlands Council’s Annual Scouting for Food Campaign.

- The Scouting for Food Campaign takes place during the month of April.
- Scouting for Food is conducted as a partnership with United Ways, local food banks, other organizations, and of course, our Scouting units.
- Scouting for Food mobilizes community businesses and organizations representing more than 250,000 people who collect food for county food banks that serve more than 150,000 food-insecure people throughout the Laurel Highlands Council region.
- Since 1987, over 125 million units of food have been collected and distributed to food banks. However, the need to help people facing hunger continues to grow.
- In 2019, we added the Chow Wagon Pet Food Bank to our list of partners. The Chow Wagon delivers pet food and supplies to partner organizations that have clients who own pets. The food and supplies help those who are not able to afford food for their pets because, research shows that oftentimes, families will forego food for themselves to feed their furry family members.

## **UNIT ORGANIZATION**

Scouting units will distribute Scouting for Food door-hangers to neighborhoods throughout the Laurel Highlands Council during the month of April. The Scouting units will return to collect contributions and then deliver them to their local food banks, pantries, or one of the intermediate collection sites (listed below). Scout units are encouraged to collect contributions at local food stores and other collection sites during the drive after securing appropriate permissions.

Scouting units will distribute contributions to the food banks and local pantries in southwestern Pennsylvania communities where food bank providers assist our neighbors in need. Scouting units can elect to be a part of the Laurel Highlands Council Collection Day on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon at any of the following intermediate collection sites:

### **Intermediate Collection Sites:**

1. [Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Duquesne](#)
2. [Animal Friends, Pittsburgh](#)
3. [Greater Washington County Food Bank, Brownsville](#)
4. [Greene County Corner Cupboard, Waynesburg](#)
5. [Beaver County Salvation Army, Beaver Falls](#)

*\*\* If viewing this in pdf, each of these is a clickable link that will take you directly to the organization's website for more information.*

## **PET FOOD DRIVE: CHOW WAGON**

In 2019, we began a partnership with Animal Friends of Pittsburgh to support the pet food bank, known as the Chow Wagon.

Animal Friends is a non-profit companion animal resource center serving the needs of pets and people since 1943. Adhering to their no-kill tradition, their progressive programs have been nationally recognized and include humane rescue, shelter, and adoption services for over 2,500 pets annually, humane education, pet behavior classes, pet therapy, wellness programs, and more. In addition, Animal Friends is leading the way toward ending pet overpopulation in western Pennsylvania through comprehensive, community-wide spay/neuter programming. Animal Friends is supported by donors, volunteers, and staff dedicated to ensuring the well-being of companion animals while ending overpopulation, abuse, and unwarranted euthanasia.

The Chow Wagon Pet Food Bank benefits significantly from our partnership. Animal Friends partners with 30 food pantries, social service agencies, and Meals on Wheels programs distributing approximately 7,700 pounds of pet food each month to more than 1,500 individuals through Chow Wagon.

The Chow Wagon program is run solely on donations, which, at times, can prove to be difficult because there is a risk of not having an adequate supply of pet food to support pet owners in need. This is also the reason why this partnership is so critical – the more pet food donated means more full bellies of pets and less empty plates for their families. It is truly a lifesaving initiative!

## **COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

The Corporate Scouting for Food campaign targets businesses, government agencies, health care systems, labor unions, professional service firms, public schools, universities, and colleges. We invite companies and community organizations to conduct employee food collections during the month of April, along with our Scouting units. If your company, or a company you know, is interested in participating in the Scouting for Food Campaign, please have them contact the Scouting for Food Coordinator at [lyndsay.seibel@scouting.org](mailto:lyndsay.seibel@scouting.org) for more information.

## **FOOD OBJECTIVES**

Scouting for Food is targeted primarily at collecting non-perishable items, household supplies, infant and elderly supplies, along with pet food and supplies. All varieties of canned fruits, vegetables, and canned products are welcome, as well as sealed, dry packaged foods such as cereals. Regarding pet food, all brands are welcome and appreciated in both dry and canned varieties.

In general, the drive is not prepared to accept perishable items. The drive is prohibited from accepting any home-canned or packaged food, any foods in glass jars, and any food having the package seal broken. If large quantities of perishable products become available, please contact the Scouting for Food office at (412) 325-7926.

### **Most Needed Foods and Supplies**

- Canned Fruits Packaged in 100% Juice
- Low Sodium/No Salt Added Canned Vegetables
- Low Sodium/No Salt Added Canned Soups and Beans
- Canned Chicken or Tuna Packaged in Water
- Whole-Grain Cereal, Oats, and Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Paper Products
- Household Items: Soap, Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, etc.
- Hygiene Items: Feminine Products, Razors, etc.
- Infant and Kid Supplies: Diapers, Wipes, Pedialyte, Fruit Cups, Granola Bars, etc.
- Senior Supplies: Nutritional Shakes and Drinks, Adult Hygiene Products

### **Pet Food and Supplies Most Needed Items**

- Small Unopened Bags of Dog, Cat, Rabbit, or Small Animal Food
- Canned Dog and Cat Food
- Small Bags of Dog and Cat Treats
- Small Bags of Timothy Hay
- Easy to Carry Containers of Cat Litter

## **CASH CONTRIBUTIONS**

Although the contribution of food and household products is preferred, cash contributions are also appreciated and will be used to support the Scouting for Food campaign and expenses. Please make checks payable to Scouting for Food. *An acknowledgment letter will be sent for all cash contributions.*

**FOOD BANKS / DISTRIBUTORS**

The following organizations are able to accept food and supply contributions. Intermediate Collection Day Sites on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to noon are noted.

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	1 North Linden Avenue Duquesne, PA 15110	412-745-3863	Intermediate Location
Salvation Army	414 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls, PA 15010	724-846-2330	Intermediate Location
Bedford County Outreach, Inc.	140 School Street Bedford, PA 15522	814-623-4888	
St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry	945 Franklin Street Johnstown, PA 15905	814-535-3315	
Corner Cupboard Food Bank, Greene County	811 Rolling Meadows Road Waynesburg, PA 15370	724-627-9784	Intermediate Location
Indiana County Community Action	827 Water Street Indiana, PA 15701	724-465-2657	
Greater Washington County Food Bank	909 National Pike West Brownsville, PA 15417	724-632-2190	Intermediate Location
Westmoreland County Food Bank	100 Devonshire Drive Delmont, PA 15626	724-468-8660 Extension 11	
Animal Friends Chow Wagon	562 Camp Horne Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-847-7023	Intermediate Location

**FOOD PICK UP**

Each Scouting unit and organization is responsible for transporting or arranging transportation for collected food to a collection location.

In those cases where a participating organization collects a large volume of food, the food can be picked up at the organization's collection center. Please contact Scouting for Food Coordinator at 412-325-7926 for instructions.

PLEASE DELIVER FOOD ONLY TO COLLECTION SITES OR COUNTY FOOD BANKS.

Pet food donations can be taken to Animal Friends, Chow Wagon. If distribution to Animal Friends is not possible, please contact Jenn Geibel at (412) 847-7023 for more drop off locations.

**RECORD KEEPING & REPORTING**

Any participating unit or organization is asked to complete a Scouting for Food Scorecard to report food and supply collections. Please use the following guide if you do not have a scale to weigh your food.

Collection Container	Average Weight
Standard plastic grocery bag	7 Pounds
Standard Scouting for Food Box	15 Pounds

\*\*Please be sure to separate the food contributions from the pet food contributions.

**Scorecards must be submitted online or by phone by May 1<sup>st</sup> to qualify for SFF PATCHES!**

### **MARKETING MATERIALS**

Visit the council website to download flyers, posters, or more copies of this guidebook. Scouting for Food **Door Hangers & Boxes** can be requested via the **online Registration Form**.

[www.lhscouting.org/ScoutingForFood](http://www.lhscouting.org/ScoutingForFood)

### **TIPS ON PLANNING YOUR DRIVE**

Here is a helpful checklist that can be used as a schedule. It will encourage campaign priorities.

- Get commitment from your top administrator
- Register Online
- Organize a Scouting for Food committee
- Analyze last year's results
- Visit your local food bank or food pantry with your committee
- Set goals and other Scouting for Food campaign objectives
- Develop a solicitation plan (group meeting, one-to-one, or executive solicitation)
- Schedule location, materials, and speaker for a group meeting
- Establish plans for communications, publicity, and events
- Conduct employee group meetings to build your campaign plan
- Report progress throughout your organization
- Report results to the Laurel Highlands Council no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>

### **CREATIVE IDEAS FOR YOUR FOOD DRIVE**

- Use a creative slogan to match your organization brand.
- Implement a food drive calendar.
- Ask your company to match the collected items donated by the employees.
- Give prizes for innovation or the greatest amount of food collected.
- Hold a meeting that features a speaker from the Food Bank or Chow Wagon.
- Tour a food bank, a local food pantry, or pet food pantry.
- Have employees volunteer at the food bank or a soup kitchen.
- Display the food collections to encourage others to contribute.
- Hold an event, meeting, or party where admission is "cans" or "bags" of food.
- Have inter-organization food collection competitions.
- Utilize posters, flyers, and social media to promote your campaign.
- Reach out to Animal Friends to schedule a visit from one of their homeless furry residents to encourage giving of pet food
- Provide up-to-date statistics on donations received to generate awareness.
- THANK ALL INVOLVED by holding a breakfast or luncheon in the committee's honor!