

# 2021

# Blue Ridge Council



# Unit Guide



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL

Dear Scouters,

Each year, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its anniversary in February by giving back to the community through the Scouting for Food campaign. The Scout Oath mentions “To help other people at all times” and four of the 12 points of the Scout Law are “helpful, friendly, courteous, kind.” Service to our communities is of paramount importance to who we are as Scouts and Scouters.

On February 6, 2021, Scouts all over the Blue Ridge Council will hit the streets. Scouts will distribute door hangers that will request that residents prepare one or more bags of non-perishable food and hang them on their door the following Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for the Scouts to pick up. Scouts will then deliver the collected food to food pantries, churches, and other locations around the Upstate. Each year, the Blue Ridge Council collects thousands of pounds of food for those in need. There are so many people in our communities right now who need our help more than ever. The goal in 2021 is to have every Scout unit in the Blue Ridge Council participate in Scouting for Food. Even if your unit does not distribute door hangers, the Scouts and adults can still collect food from their chartered organization and deliver it to the nearest food pantry. Every bit of food collected helps those in need. It also helps the Scouts out by earning service hours which can count towards rank advancement!

This guide has been developed to help units plan and organize this campaign. Inside, you’ll find important tips, safety guidelines, important dates, and more. We hope this will be a useful tool in your efforts to give back to the communities we serve.

THANK YOU for participating in Scouting for Food. Let’s make a HUGE impact this year and collect as much food as possible. Our communities are counting on us to make a difference!

Yours in Scouting,

*Colin Lemon*

Program Director  
Blue Ridge Council



## What is Scouting for Food?

### History of Scouting for Food

**Scouting for Food** is an annual program of the Boy Scouts of America that began in 1985 by the Greater Saint Louis Area Council that collects food for local food agencies. In 1988, the BSA held the first national Scouting for Food campaign and collected more than 60 million food items to be distributed to local food agencies.

Scouting for Food is a project rooted in the very foundation of the Scouting movement and its dedication to do an implement the Scout Slogan and do good turn daily. Each year, local Cub and Boy Scouts leave plastic bags or door hangers for their neighbors soliciting non-perishable food items. One week later, the Scouts return to pick up and deliver the bags of food to a local food bank. Or the Boy/Cub Scouts will stand outside major food retailers (with permission) soliciting donations from shoppers. The donations are delivered directly to the local food bank that day.

### Local Need

In South Carolina, 11 percent of families are "**food-insecure**," meaning they at times lack access for enough food for all household members. One in six children in South Carolina struggles with hunger.

75% of families served by food banks had to decide between buying food and heating their homes.

36% of food pantries have had to turn people away for lack of food inventory.

Source: Feeding America

## Our Communities Need Help!



## Important Dates

- **January** – Ask your chartered organization (church) to place announcements in their January newsletters and/or bulletins. Ask your clergy to include Scouting for Food in their pulpit announcements. Don't forget to ask your own church to do this if different from your chartered organization!
- **At February Roundtable** – Pick up your door hangers from your district executive. Units should make sure their Unit Scouting for Food Coordinator is present to pick up door hangers and gather any pertinent information regarding the campaign. If picking up door hangers from Roundtable isn't possible, contact your district executive to make other arrangements or pick them up from the Scout office.
- **Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** – Distribute door hangers to neighborhoods and communities.
- **Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Ensure that all church congregations hear the Scouting for Food message and are asked to bring food the following Sunday.
- **Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** – Starting at 9:00 AM, units collect food from neighborhoods where door hangers were distributed.
- **Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Attend service at chartered organization and home church to pick up food donated by members of the congregation.
- **Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Submit your total pounds of food collected using the forms provided.



## Unit Leader Check List

- Determine how many Scouts will participate and how many adults will be available to drive when distributing door hangers and when picking up the food. Large vehicles or trucks are recommended.
- Determine how many homes are within your designated area so you can accurately estimate the number of door hangers you will need.
- Make maps and sign-up sheet available at unit meetings prior to distribution day.
- Distribute door hangers to Scouts at the unit meeting just before distribution day.
- Leaders should call/email Scout families the night before distribution and collection to remind them.
- Assemble all Scouts and adults to receive final instructions before distributing door hangers and collecting bags.
- All Scouts and adults should wear the proper field uniform when distributing door hangers, collecting food, and delivering to the food banks. Uniform hats are recommended since Scouts will probably be wearing coats or jackets and the uniform might not be visible.
- Scouts should stay in buddy teams. No Scout should be alone, and nobody should ride in the back of pick-up trucks.
- Begin distribution and collection after 9:00 AM. Earlier will disturb residents.
- **Anyone touching bags picked up from houses should wear protective gloves and sanitize their hands frequently.**
- Hang the door hangers on the front or most obvious door or the front porch. Do not knock but if the resident is outside or greets you, explain the importance of the program **while social distancing**.
- Use sidewalks and driveways; do NOT cut across yards.
- Do not put door hangers on or in mailboxes.
- On collection day, only collect visible bags. Do not knock on doors or ask for bags.
- Have a clean-up team revisit the neighborhoods in the late morning or early afternoon to collect missed or late bags. A lot of food gets missed each year because of late bags so this can REALLY impact the amount of food we collect!
- **Send all collection results to Colin Lemon at [Colin.Lemon@scouting.org](mailto:Colin.Lemon@scouting.org) by Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM using the form below or submit using the electronic form.**



Use this form to submit the results from your Scouting for Food collection efforts.

You can also submit your results online at [www.blueridgecouncil.org/scouting-for-food](http://www.blueridgecouncil.org/scouting-for-food).

What is Your District?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Foothills	<input type="checkbox"/> Reedy Falls
<input type="checkbox"/> Long Cane	<input type="checkbox"/> Saluda River
<input type="checkbox"/> Oconee	<input type="checkbox"/> Six & Twenty
<input type="checkbox"/> Pickens	<input type="checkbox"/> Southbounder

Unit Type?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pack	<input type="checkbox"/> Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Troop	<input type="checkbox"/> Post
<input type="checkbox"/> Crew	

Unit Number? _____	
Number of Youth Participated (include both Saturdays)	_____
Number of Adults Participated (include both Saturdays)	_____
Number of Siblings Participated (include both Saturdays)	_____
Number of Hours Worked by Unit (include both Saturdays)	_____
Number of Pounds Collected	_____
Number of Bags Collected	_____
Food/Items Were Delivered to:	
_____	
(Please write the name of the location and city)	

**Thank You for Service to Your Community!**



## Contact List

### **Foothills District**

J.D. Whitt  
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[James.Whitt@scouting.org](mailto:James.Whitt@scouting.org)

### **Long Cane District**

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### **Oconee District**

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### **Pickens District**

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### **Reedy Falls District**

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### **Saluda River District**

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### **Six and Twenty District**

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### **Southbounder District**

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### **Council Program Director**

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**Thank You to Souper Bowl  
of Caring for their  
donation of Scouting for  
Food door hangers in  
2021!**