

March is **SCOUTING FOR FOOD** Month in Cobb County

Scouting for Food is the Boy Scouts of America's food drive to collect food for our area's food pantries. In coordination with the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the three Boy Scout Districts in Cobb County (Foothills, Covered Bridge, and Mountain Lakes) will conduct their Scouting for Food drive in March 2010

This year the Scouting for Food campaign takes place during the entire month of March . It is launched on "Bag Distribution Day" when Scouts of all ages, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Varsity Team members, distribute bags to residences during the first three weeks of March. On "Bag Collection Days" the scouts return to the residences in the following weeks to retrieve the bags which are filled with donated items.

Each unit will distribute specially printed grocery bags (provided by Publix Supermarkets) in their neighborhoods. The printed instructions on the bags ask each recipient to purchase:

“Non-perishables only. Soup, beef stew, chili, canned fish, meats, vegetables, fruits and potatoes. Please, nothing perishable, frozen or in glass.” Other suggested items include pasta, beans, crackers, juice, flour, sugar, peanut butter, instant soups, toilet paper, etc.

In addition to distributing and collecting the grocery bags, Scout units will encourage their Charter Organizations to collect additional food on

site. All items collected by the Scouts will be delivered to selected food pantries. In the Foothills district (East Cobb and Marietta), the selected pantry is Storehouse Ministries. Storehouse Ministries helps families in need throughout Cobb County. Last year they assisted over 23,100 individuals--that's 6809 families. They provided 8241 boxes of food, with each box weighing approximately fifty pounds, to those individuals. They also provided over 3700 sack lunches. Each unit is welcome to support a different pantry as part of the campaign.

More than ever, our community needs help - - your help ! The poverty rate in the Atlanta area continues to increase. More families are turning to various agencies like Storehouse Ministries, Must Ministries, and other organizations for help.

2010 is the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. For 100 years the Boy Scouts of America have created a strong foundation of leadership, service, and community for millions of America's youth and their families. Through A Year of Celebration, a Century of Making a Difference, we can demonstrate the incredible impact of a century of living the Scout Oath -- *"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."*

Since 1910, the ideals of Scouting have guided young men and women to perform service to others and to the community. Responding to the plight of America's poor and hungry is a traditional Scouting

"good turn." During WWI, Boy Scouts planted vegetable gardens to provide food for the hungry. President Roosevelt called on Scouts to collect food for the needy during the Great Depression. Planting Victory Gardens were the Scouting "good turns" organized during WWII. Today, Scouts continue their Good Turn efforts in community stewardship through ***Scouting for Food***.

In recognition of 100 years of Scouting in America, the Foothills district would like to collect 100,000 items during Scouting for Food. If you would like to help us reach that goal by donating any of the suggested items, you can donate thru your local scouting units or when a scout in your neighborhood places the Scouting for Food bag at your door. You may also drop off any items at the office Building of Roswell Street Baptist Church at 900 Roswell Street in Marietta. The building is located on the south side of Roswell Street about 1/2 mile west of the Big Chicken. Office hours are 9:00 - 4:30 Monday thru Thursday. For more information, contact donnavinson@roswellstreet.com or call 770-424-9816.

One of the Scout Laws is "a Scout is Helpful." You don't have to be a scout to be able to help. By participating in Scouting for Food, you and your family can fight hunger in your own community.

Please help. Together, we CAN make a difference!