



THE COMMUNITY PAGE

The Boy Scouts Do It Again!

"... To Help Other People At All Times ..."

- Excerpt from the Boy Scout Oath

447,724 cans collected! Scouting for Food 2005

Scouting programs in Eastern Idaho have instilled in generations of youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives. Scouting provides young men the opportunity to try new things, give service to others, and reinforce the values they live by. A Scout participates in helpful activities of many kinds in his community.

Each year Scouts perform several "Good Turns" to reduce and prevent hunger. Perhaps the most recognized of these is the annual "Scouting for Food Drive." There is no greater tragedy in our society of abundance than a hungry child or starving older person. The disabled, the elderly, the homeless, the unemployed and children are all significantly helped when large amounts of food are donated to the hungry in our community. Youth learn the value of caring for others.



The Scouting for Food Drive involved almost 75% of the over 12,000 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts registered in the Grand Teton Council. In Southeast Idaho, it is one of the yearly service projects that every unit plans to perform for the good of the community.



Greater participation from troop and unit leaders and better weather helped get the food collected and distributed to under-supplied area food banks just in time for the heavy demand that accompanies the onset of winter and the Holidays.



The November 19, 2005, collection of non-perishable foods resulted in a total of 447,724 cans contributed to the area food banks. This donation represents 335,793 meals that will be available for the hungry.

David Jones, Boy Scout Professional over the drive stated, "We will impact each community in Southeast Idaho by the service these young men are rendering. Youth get the opportunity to see the need by restocking the empty shelves of various food banks including, the SEICAA, the Salvation Army, and a number of other agencies serving the less fortunate."

Scouts are asked to knock on the door of those homes at which they left empty bags on the previous week, if they find no food on the doorstep. One touching story involved a young man who, seeing no food on the doorstep of a particular home, rang the doorbell. As the family came to the door, he noticed it was a single parent family, with no furniture in the home and very few amenities. Without prompting, he ran back to the pick-up truck, pulled several sacks of food from the back end and returned to the lady and her children waiting at the door.

These are the kind of experiences that Scouting for Food gives to young men performing service. Young men help to organize routes, coordinate the pick-up day, and sort the food for the participating agency. They visit many homes and witness the food being given to the needy through the food agencies. Some troops help the community food agencies stock shelves as the food arrives. But most importantly, these young men develop a sense of commitment through their service to others and the generous contributions of people in the community.



Scouting for Food provides youth with the opportunity to see the needs in our community by distributing food to the various food banks including, the SEICAA, the Salvation Army, and a number of other agencies serving the less fortunate.