News Release
For Immediate Release
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SCOUTING FOR FOOD BRINGS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO FIGHT HUNGER

SIKESTON, MO (Nov. 17, 2026) – Scouts across Southeast Missouri are preparing to collect food donations during the annual Scouting for Food drive benefiting Southeast Missouri Food Bank and its network of partner pantries.

“Scouting for Food is a great example of neighbors helping neighbors,” said Joey Keys, president and CEO of SEMO Food Bank. “The food collected through this annual drive helps stock pantry shelves across Southeast Missouri and provides families with nutritious food as we head into the holiday season.”

Scouts distributed collection bags to homes throughout the region on Saturday, Nov. 14, and will return Saturday, Nov. 21, to collect donations. Residents are encouraged to place filled bags outside by 10 a.m. Saturday morning so Scouts can pick them up.

Donations should be non-perishable, unexpired, unopened, and undamaged. The most-needed items include canned proteins such as chicken, tuna and beans; canned fruits and vegetables; canned soups and stews; peanut butter; and pasta or pasta sauce.

Those who did not receive a collection bag can still participate by making a monetary donation at semofoodbank.org, where every $1 helps provide 4 meals, or by dropping off non-perishable food at a local pantry. A list of partner pantries is available under the Get Help tab at semofoodbank.org.

“We are grateful to the Scouts, their leaders and everyone who takes the time to fill a bag and support this drive,” Keys said. “Every donation helps provide food for families across Southeast Missouri. Thank you for continuing to show up for your neighbors.”

SEMO Food Bank serves families, children, veterans and seniors through a network of 140 partner agencies and direct-service programs across a 16-county service area. Southeast Missouri has some of the highest rates of hunger in Missouri, with 1 in 5 individuals, 1 in 4 children and 1 in 8 seniors living in homes that are food insecure. The six most food-insecure counties in the state are in Southeast Missouri.

To learn more about Southeast Missouri Food Bank, visit semofoodbank.org.

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About Southeast Missouri Food Bank
The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to end hunger and leverage the power of food to build healthy communities. The food bank provides food to 140 charitable and disaster relief programs in Southeast Missouri. These member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters. Southeast Missouri Food Bank also holds regular mobile

food distributions and provides monthly boxes of food to 5,600 senior citizens and weekend backpacks of food during the school year to 1,100 students in area school districts. The food bank's 16-county coverage area includes Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Dunklin, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard and Wayne counties. Those interested in helping can do so by making a tax-deductible contribution, donating food, or scheduling time to volunteer. Visit semofoodbank.org for more information.