

What is Feed Your Neighbor (FYN) Food Drive & Service Day?

After getting great feedback from girls to do a council-wide service project to fight hunger, the Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day Patch Program was launched. The program, which encourages both community service and service learning, incorporates Girl Scouts' three keys to leaderships; Discover, Connect, and Take Action and then culminates with a great day of service—through food drives and volunteering.

Where can I find FYN information?

On the front page of the GSGLA website (www.girlscoutsla.org), you can click on the Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day button; or, you can navigate through to Service Saturday under Activities/Signature Events or through the calendar under the date May 2, 2015.

Can I earn the FYN patch by just participating in the food drive or do I have to complete the patch requirements? You can only earn the Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day patch by completing three patch program requirements, but don't worry, the activities are engaging, fun, and easy to do!

What are the patch program requirements?

Visit www.girlscoutsla.org and click on the Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day button to download the requirements. The patch program is broken down into three age level brackets: Daisy/Brownie, Junior/Cadette, and Senior/Ambassador.

Why are we doing FYN now instead of the holidays?

To make a greater impact! Previously, FYN was done during the holiday season. Not only were hundreds of other great organizations competing for the same support at that time, but these campaigns filled the food banks and pantries during the season, but left them depleted when the holidays passed. It will be extremely beneficial to our food bank partner to help fill the pantries at a time when giving may not necessarily be on everyone's mind.

Does my troop have to participate in FYN?

No. Girl Scouts provides hundreds of great experiences and opportunities, but we know you can't take advantage of them all.

Can we do the food drive on Saturday, May 2, but turn in the food later in the week?

GSGLA is currently working on arrangements to make drop-off locations available the following Monday after the event. Stay tuned!

Do troops have to take their food to a specific food bank or can they donate it to a place of their choice? Can girls turn in their food to their church, for example?

One of the great things about partnering with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank is that it has a network of more than 500 affiliate food banks and pantries (there are very few food banks not in the network). Even more, we want to create a unified front in our partnership with LARFB, and therefore we urge participants to support our partner and its affiliates for this particular day of service. If troops would like to support a food bank outside of the network, we humbly request creating another opportunity at another time.

Are we only collecting food on May 2 or are we collecting food other days, too?

May 2 is the culmination of the patch program, so most of the program's food collection energy, promotion, and media coverage is happening that day. However, you'll note in the Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day Patch Program that girls are encouraged to host their own drive leading up to the big day, if they so choose.

What time will we be accepting food on Saturday, May 2?

Food donations can be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at designated GSGLA service centers and food banks/pantries.

Ralph's/Food4Less boothing shifts are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. FYN booth information details are available on the ivolunteer.com calendars.

How do we get the patch?

Once you've completed three appropriate activities, including food drive or service on May 2, download an evaluation form from our website (www.girlscoutsla.org), complete the form, and turn it in at your local service center shop. Just bring in a completed evaluation form to any service center shop and trade it in for a Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day patch. Evaluation forms can be turned in as a group or individual.

What age levels are able to booth for FYN?

All age levels that are eligible to booth for the Cookie Program can booth for FYN. However, service opportunities are somewhat limited to older girls, so Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors are encouraged to take advantage of the service opportunities. Download the Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day Patch Program from the website (www.girlscoutsla.org) for other activity options.

How will troops be able to sign up for booths for FYN?

The FYN booth registration will be done via ivolunteer.com. Visit the website (www.girlscoutsla.org) for details. Remember, you do not have to host a food drive booth to participate in Feed Your Neighbor Food Drive & Service Day. Download the patch program to find out other ways to participate.