



START A FOOD DRIVE AT YOUR SCHOOL

If you want to start a food drive at your school but aren't sure exactly how to start, below is a list of things that may make it easier. This is just a guide and you may tailor it to your specific needs and goals. Depending on your age(s), you may need an adult to assist. If you have a question or need some clarity, please visit our website (QR Code below) and leave us a message via the [Contact Us](#) page.



- Food Drive Tips (School) -

- **Choose a group to support:** If you're not sure whom to help, contact your local food bank or pantry for suggestions – or just simply assist your local pantry itself as they are always in need of food donations. Ask what items they will and will not accept. This will aid in how you promote your food drive.
- **Make a plan:** If you are not doing this solo, meet with the other helpers to determine how and when to hold your food drive at your school. Holding a food drive lasting a week or two is a good way to start.
- **Get permission:** Contact your principal, dean or school administrator and advise them of your intentions. They may be able to assist with intercom announcements daily before and while the food drive runs.
- **Promote your event:** Not only can you make handmade / computer signs and flyers, you should consider the school's website, social media and contacting your local media to have an article printed. Some schools have electronic scrolling outdoor and indoor signs and may allow you to promote with large handmade signs outside as well. Use your imagination.
- **Set up large containers / boxes in preapproved area(s) with signage for food collection:** Make it neat, clean and fun. Areas by the cafeteria, entrance, home economics room and office are good places to consider.
- **For a multi day collection:** Keep an eye on the food collection containers and empty as needed for future food donations.
- **Ask for assistance:** See if you can get school educators and staff involved. School officials love helping their students who become involved in assisting their community and those in need. This is also a great way to bond with and see another side of them.
- **When the food drive is complete:** Never forget to thank all those that assisted in the drive and those who donated food / items. Send out blast emails, make school announcements, post pictures on school website and social media, etc. Thanking others show that their involvement was appreciated may get them to assist / give in the future.
- **Here's a thought:** Holding two (2) food drives each school year may be an added bonus to place on your college resume. Among other things, colleges love to see community outreach by prospective applicants.

YES, ITEMS TO ACCEPT:



- ❖ Peanut butter
- ❖ Canned soup & stews
- ❖ Canned fruits & vegetables
- ❖ Canned fish & canned beans
- ❖ Pasta
- ❖ Rice
- ❖ Other item(s) the food organization requests

ITEMS NOT TO ACCEPT:



- ❖ Expired food
- ❖ Leftovers
- ❖ Baked goods
- ❖ Items needing refrigeration
- ❖ Items where packaging has been compromised
- ❖ Fresh meat / fish / fruits / vegetables
- ❖ Item(s) not wanted by food organization



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with involvement."*
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