

# Media Advisory

## For Immediate Release

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## Local Boy Scouts Host Scouting for Food to Benefit Feeding the Gulf Coast and Families in Need During COVID-19 Pandemic

**Mobile, Ala.** – The Mobile Area Council, Boy Scouts of America has partnered with Feeding the Gulf Coast and local residents and scouts of Mobile, Baldwin, Clark, and Washington counties to fight hunger and the current food shortage created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This public health crisis is creating an added strain on Gulf Coast families struggling with food insecurity and access to healthy foods.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic disruptions for families of the Gulf Coast at a time when many are already living paycheck to paycheck. This may increase the level of food insecurity in communities for months to come,” said Dan Emery, President and CEO for Feeding the Gulf Coast. “With business closures and many individuals self-quarantining, our food drives have severely declined. We are so thankful for the Boy Scouts and our community for their support in this food drive. This food will greatly help our neighbors struggling with hunger.”

The scouts have partnered with Feeding the Gulf Coast for over 10 years to host the annual Scouting for Food, typically held each November. In the midst of the current crisis, the Boy Scouts moved their event to aid families this spring.

“The Scouts of the Mobile Area Council are using the current pandemic as an opportunity to help those who are struggling to feed their families in this difficult time. Part of the scout oath states to help other people at all times, and our scouts are definitely putting those words into action with this activity,” said Rachael Mastin with the Mobile Area Council, Boy Scouts.

Scouts will be spreading the word throughout the community hoping to inspire residents to donate to Feeding the Gulf Coast. The scouts delivered bags to participating neighborhoods on Saturday, April 25. Residents who have received these bags are asked to fill them with non-perishable canned goods and leave the bags outside their door. On April 30 and May 1, between the hours of 8:30 and 3:00, scouts will pick up and drop off their donations at Feeding the Gulf Coast. The food will be distributed to families in need.

For community residents who did not receive a grocery bag from the scouts but who would like to participate, please drop off your non-perishable food donation at Feeding the Gulf Coast (5248 Mobile South St, Mobile, Alabama 36582) between the hours of 8:30-3:00 on April 30 and May 1.

**WHEN (Donations Picked-up):** April 30 and May 1  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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**Please help us promote this event prior to pickup date by encouraging those who received bags from the scouts to participate in the food drive.**

**Media is invited to follow the Scouts on their pickups.**

For interviews or images, please contact Rachael Mastin, Mobile Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, at (251) 476-4600 or [Rachael.Mastin@scouting.org](mailto:Rachael.Mastin@scouting.org) or Amanda Young, Feeding the Gulf Coast, at (251) 653-1617 ext. 144 or [ayoung@feedingthegulfcoast.org](mailto:ayoung@feedingthegulfcoast.org).

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### **About Feeding the Gulf Coast**

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Florida panhandle, south Alabama, and south Mississippi. In 2019, the food bank distributed over 24 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs, including Summer Meals, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Mobile Pantry and Produce Drop Distributions and Nutrition Education. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America.

As families are faced with an increased need for food due to school closures, inability to work, or facing self-quarantine requirements, the "Find Help" feature available at [www.feedingthegulfcoast.org](http://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org), is the best source of information for families and individuals seeking assistance. Individuals can also call (888) 704-FOOD. During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Feeding the Gulf Coast remains dedicated to serving the community. Working with community partners, the food bank will continue to be an organization of hope and support for families facing hunger.

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### **About Mobile Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America**

The Mobile Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has over 6,000 youth and volunteer members involved in the Scouting program in Mobile, Baldwin, Washington and Clarke counties. The Council strives to instill values in young people to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime and to achieve their full potential based on the Scout Oath and Scout Law. For more information, call (251) 476-4600 or visit [www.bsamac.org](http://www.bsamac.org).

Scouting for Food is the nation's largest youth organization lead single-day food drive. It began as a Boy Scouts of America service project in St. Louis in 1985 and was adopted by the National Organization of the Boy Scouts in 1988. The Boy Scouts of America has been collecting food for needy families as an annual "good turn daily" event ever since.