

Hunt to Help Others

By Stacia Edwards McDermott

Collect food items for a local food pantry by doing a scavenger hunt in your area. Make it a competition by dividing up your family or inviting other families/teens to participate.

For
Teen

Season
Fall – around Thanksgiving

Needed

List of food items needed from your local pantry, maps of area, boxes/bags to collect food, Donate to Help Others handout to give to houses, prizes for those who collect the most food (optional).



Prepare in Advance

- Call your local food pantry to see what items are needed.
- Use the Donate to Help Others handout to explain your scavenger hunt to those in homes you visit (make copies).
- Invite others to join you and set a date.
- Using a map, divide participants into groups that cover a certain area.
- Each team will need boxes/bags for collection.
- Set a time and place to reconvene after the collection.
- Have prizes prepared for winners (optional).

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud before leaving.

God of Goodness, we praise and thank you for this opportunity to help those who lack our most basic need: food. During this time of thanksgiving we ask you to always give us grateful hearts for the abundant blessings we have in our life. Open the hearts of those whose doors we stop at, helping them give generously and freely from what they have. Bless us on our collection and bless those who will eat this food. Amen.

2. Upon returning, extend your hands over the food you have collected and offer this blessing:

We invite you to extend your hands over the food in blessing. God, we thank you for the gift of this food. Bless all those whose hands have taken part in its creation. Let it nourish those in body and mind who will eat it. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you. Amen.

3. If determining “champion collectors,” simply count the number of food items each group has collected.

Additional Ideas

- After receiving the needs list from your local pantry, plan a meal for your family around that list to experience what it’s like to always eat from cans or from a box.
- Plan to do this collection again in 6 months or so when the food pantry gets fewer donations.
- Inquire to what other needs your pantry has and volunteer there as a family.
- Include a special prayer for those who go without food, during your Thanksgiving gatherings and consider having family members bring food items to donate.



Donate to Help Others!



We are the _____ family/families and we are looking for items to donate to the _____ food pantry. Here is the list of items they are in need of right now (list items below):

Thank you so much for your donation. To find out more about ways you can help the _____ food pantry, you can contact them at the following address/number:

Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



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