

# Food & Fund Drive FAQs

## What types of food can I donate?

Whenever possible, we request that food donations meet the following criteria:

- All-natural ingredients
- Low sodium
- Low sugar
- No high fructose corn syrup

*We are unable to accept the following items:*

- Baby food that is past its sell-by date
- Any type of wild game or fish
- Foods in seriously damaged and/or compromised packaging
- Prepared foods that have been heated/reheated and/or put on a buffet table
- Unlabeled foods
- Adult energy drinks or adult only dietary/herbal supplements
- Cloth diapers, adult diapers, or wipes
- Open diaper packages or homemade/assembled diaper “kits”

For additional criteria regarding acceptable and unacceptable donations, please view the [Quick Reference Guide to Acceptable Donations](#) or the [Complete Guide to Acceptable Donations](#).

## What are your most-needed food items?

- Peanut Butter
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Meats (tuna, chicken or beef)
- Chili
- SpaghettiOs/Ravioli
- Canned Fruits
- Other Boxed Meals

## How do I start a food drive?

So that we can provide as much support as possible, all food drives must be registered regardless of whether you are requesting supplies and/or transportation. You can register online or with the Community Engagement Coordinator, who can be reached at [fooddrive@utahfoodbank.org](mailto:fooddrive@utahfoodbank.org). Because we operate on a small staff, only food drives with a donation of 500 lbs. or more (the equivalent of a filled SUV or pickup truck) are eligible for Utah Food Bank transportation services for supplies and food pick up. **Please note:** to receive supplies or transportation, we require that food drives be registered one week before the start date.

## How do I set a food drive goal?

Each group's goal is unique and depends on the enthusiasm of those involved. We cannot provide supplies without a set goal. For example, determine how many pounds of food you think each employee will bring (for example, 5 cans), then multiply that by the number of employees.

## Can Utah Food Bank deliver supplies and pick up the food collected?

If your food drive goal is 500 lbs. or more (the equivalent of a filled SUV or pickup truck) and your goal is met or highly likely to be met, you're eligible for transportation services. If Utah Food Bank is picking up your food, please arrange to have the collected food placed in a centralized location on the first floor of your building. If there is a large amount of food, we would appreciate having someone from your organization available to assist our driver. If you can provide your own collection of receptacles and transportation, it will significantly increase the impact of your donation.

## What if we do not meet our food drive goal?

For food drives collecting less than 500 lbs., we ask that you return the supplies and food collected to the east donation door at our warehouse at 3150 S. 900 W. in Salt Lake. Food can be dropped off Monday – Friday, between 8 am and 5 pm, and Saturday, between 8 am and 2 pm.

If you are in Washington County, please take your donations to our Southern Distribution Center, 4416 S. River Road in St. George. Donations can be dropped off at this location Monday – Friday between 8 am and 4:30 pm, or you can call (435) 656-9122 to make special arrangements.

## What materials & supplies can Utah Food Bank provide to help my food drive be a success?

All of these items can be requested during the registration process:

- **Collection Barrels:** these barrels (or bins) measure 3' high x 2' wide (round) and can hold approximately 250 lbs. (150 cans).
- **Totes/Caylords:** these cardboard boxes measure 4' high x 4' wide x 4' deep and can hold up to 1,500 lbs. (900 cans) and must sit on top of a pallet.
- **Money Shakers:** a great collection device for collecting loose change and cash. You can bring it back to us full, and we will count the funds collected and report them to you.
- **Food Drive Envelopes:** these self-sealing envelopes allow donors to fill in credit card information or provide a check, covering up sensitive personal information.
- **Promotional Posters:** these 11" x 17" posters will be included with your barrels if requested during the registration process. If you have not requested collection of receptacles, you can pick these up at 3150 S. 900 W. in Salt Lake or 4416 River Road in St. George.

## When will I get my supplies?

If your food drive goal is 500 lbs. or more and you have requested transportation services, your supplies will be delivered on or around the start date of your food drive.

If you are not eligible for transportation services, you may pick up supplies at the east donation door at our warehouse, located at 3150 S. 900 W. in Salt Lake. Supplies can be picked up and dropped off Monday – Friday between 8 am and 5 pm, and Saturday between 8 am and 2 pm.

If you are in Washington County, supplies can be picked up at our Southern Distribution center, located at 4416 S. River Road in St. George. Supplies can be picked up and dropped off Monday – Friday between 8 am and 4:30 pm, or

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## How long does a typical food drive last?

Food drive length depends on the type of group hosting the food drive. The following are some timeline tips:

- **Neighborhood:** a one-day food drive is often most successful, preferably with a gathering at a neighbor's home to attract more donations.
- **Office:** One to two weeks is most successful in this setting. A definitive timeline gives your coworkers a chance to get into the spirit of donating.
- **Religious/Community Organization:** A one-day or two-week collection effort is ideal, depending on your desired promotion efforts. These food drives are most successful with internal promotion and perhaps a meeting or celebration to encourage donors. Two weeks provides those who may have forgotten a chance to still donate.
- **Retail:** a one-month collection effort is ideal so customers can bring cans on their next visit.
- **School:** one to two weeks of collection effort is ideal for schools, as this gives each student time to get excited and pass the information on to their parents.

## How can I make my food drive a success?

Consider the audience you are encouraging to donate and what would be the strongest motivation for them to participate. Here are a few ideas to increase your chances of success:

- Work hard to get top-level executives or leaders on board with your efforts.
- Select a coordinator or a coordinating committee to be in charge.
- Set a goal for food and/or funds to be donated.
- Include a [Virtual Food Drive](#) as part of your efforts. This secure and convenient online “shopping” experience is a great way to make it quick and easy for anyone to participate!
- Be specific about what types of food are best to donate (see lists at the beginning of these FAQs).
- Encourage healthy competition—a little rivalry goes a long way!
- Provide regular reminders and progress reports regarding the food drive.
- Publicize the results of the food drive, acknowledging those most responsible for its success.
- Place decorated receptacles in highly visible and high-traffic areas.
- If your food drive is associated with a business, request matching contributions of food or funds from your employer.
- Request a food donation as admission to a special event.
- Create internal publicity utilizing newsletters, memos, emails, bulletins, flyers, posters, payroll inserts, etc.
- Organize a food donation contest and offer prizes or incentives. For example, the winning team could receive dress-down days or movie passes.
- Create donated-food theme days like “Macaroni Mondays” or “Tuna Tuesdays.”
- Don't forget the importance of communication. Willing participants often need more than one reminder to engage. Different people respond to different reminders—try to use verbal, visual and written reminders!
- Don't underestimate the power of social media!

## What is a DIY Fundraiser?

A [DIY Fundraiser](#) can be anything you want it to be— plan a one-time event, ask people to support your fitness journey, mark a special occasion with donations instead of gifts, or even raise funds by doing something like shaving your head! Creating a unique fundraising page to share with your friends and family only takes a few minutes, and all donations are processed securely through Utah Food Bank using our JustGiving platform. We have toolkits available and can help you through the process!

## What are the advantages of a Virtual Food Drive?

- The flexibility to create the type of fundraiser you want.
- No more having to remember to pull from a cupboard or buy and lift grocery items.
- Donating takes only a few minutes, and all major credit cards are accepted on a secure site.
- All donations are tax-deductible.
- Establishing teams encourages competition between departments, locations or partner organizations, which creates buzz and increases success.
- Donors get to capitalize on our purchasing power.
- Participants can donate from anywhere and don't need to remember to bring donations into their workplace or church.
- Our [DIY Fundraising](#) makes it easy to send group emails and share on social media.

## Do you have any creative ideas?

- Host a special event that also serves as a food & fund drive, e.g., the CEO's birthday, company outing or anniversary, back-to-school night or a holiday party. Offer incentives for reaching the goal, such as a casual dress day, free lunch or pizza party. This can also be accomplished by providing "casual dress" or other coupons.
- Give a prize to the individual, group or department that donated the most food and/or funds. Have a drawing where a certain amount of food "buys" a ticket to enter. The prize could be dinner for two, a gas card or a gift certificate.
- Have a contest with a fun prize: If an aggressive goal is met, ask someone in a leadership role within your group or office to wear a funny outfit, be in a dunk tank, sing in front of coworkers or whatever best works for your group or office.
- Host a kick-off event to get your group excited to donate. Show a video on what Utah Food Bank does, or even volunteer at our warehouse! Get a firsthand look at our operations and what is involved in providing emergency food assistance throughout the state. Volunteering is a great team-building experience and can serve as a kick-off or reward for your food drive. Just schedule a volunteer appointment well in advance because openings fill up fast. [Find out more here.](#)
- Single out an item: Select a most-needed food item (such as peanut butter or tuna) and give it a catchy title (i.e., Tuna Tower or Peeps for Peanut Butter). You can even create donated food theme days such as "Macaroni Mondays" or "Tuna Tuesdays."
- Have a community event such as a bake sale, cake walk, BBQ dinner, car wash or multi-home yard sale to benefit Utah Food Bank.
- Create a friendly competition by challenging departments, floors in an office building, alumni groups of rival schools, high schools, etc. The winners could make the others wear their school colors, decorate their office or provide a service to the winning team.

***Remember to Share! Please share your food and/or fund drive ideas with us.***  
**Let our Community Engagement Coordinator in on your success at (801) 887-1266 or**  
**[fooddrive@utahfoodbank.org](mailto:fooddrive@utahfoodbank.org).**