

SUMNER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



FOOD DRIVE TOOLKIT



Call : +253-863-2996

sumnerfoodbank.org

15625 Main St E
Sumner, WA 98390

Thank you!

Thank you for volunteering to host a food drive on behalf of the Sumner Community Food Bank! The food you collect will directly allow families in our community to succeed without worrying about where they will get their next meal.

Did you know?

- 1 in 7 children go hungry in Washington.
- In June 2021, the Sumner Community Food Bank had 12 families visit the food bank a day; now, we have 75 families a day.
- According to the WAFOOD studies done by University of Washington & Washington State University, food insecurity now affects 49% of low-income households in our state as of 2023, growing from 27% in 2021.
- Diet quality is also at risk: 43% of respondents from these studies said their diet has worsened during the pandemic, putting families at risk of nutrition-related diseases.

Why host a food drive?

These last few years have hit the most vulnerable in our communities hard. The COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have caused an influx of people in our area who are facing food insecurity. Your support through food and monetary donations is critical to meeting this need, and we are so grateful for your work for our community!

Get Started

Reach out

Before you begin your food drive planning, contact us! We're always happy to accept whatever you collect, but we often have specific needs based on shortages at the food bank – we might ask if you want to host a hygiene item drive, or a food drive solely focused on peanut butter!

Assemble your team

If you belong to a company or organization, holding a food drive with coworkers, peers, or through your church are a great way to work together to make your community a better place. Identify one person to be the lead contact who people can go to if they have questions.

Pick the right time

We suggest holding your food drive for 2 weeks or longer, so that donors have enough time to bring their items in. No matter what length of time you choose, plan on getting items in after your publicized deadline, as some people will forget. Also, decide where will keep the donations, and make sure the drop-off point is easily assessable.

Get the word out

No one will be able to donate if they don't know about your food drive! Keep your team updated on important dates, and your progress if working toward a certain goal. If this is a community food drive, post of social media (tag us on Facebook: [@SumnerCommunityFoodBankWA](https://www.facebook.com/SumnerCommunityFoodBankWA)) & share with your friends & family! **See the Resources Section for example social posts.**

Tips & Suggestions

Get Support!

- Obtain the endorsement of your organization's top management.
- Get sponsorship from your company to match every pound raised by employees with a \$1 donation.
- Invite co-workers or group members to a planning meeting to get new ideas and build enthusiasm for the drive!
- Invite family and friends to donate food as a birthday, anniversary, or holiday gift.
- If you expect to collect 500 pounds or more, request boxes and posters from the Food Bank to place in high traffic areas.

Get Organized!

- Set a specific amount goal, and then a stretch goal... and then another stretch goal! This gives teams a sense of accomplishment when they hit these milestones. Celebrate when milestones are reached!
- Assign specific foods from the "Most Wanted Foods" list to each team.
- Have food assigned to a specific day: Peanut butter day, rice & beans day.

Get Creative!

- Choose a catchy name or theme for your food drive. **Check the Resources Section for theme ideas.**
- Plan a healthy competition between departments, classrooms, or teams. Have them choose team names, keep a leaderboard, and send updates as to rankings throughout the food drive.
- Offer creative rewards to top donors: pizza parties, gift certificates, front-row parking, let employees wear jeans each day they donate a canned good.
- Do lunch time/lunchroom games. Build a canned castle, a cereal maze, create your school mascot from food donated by classes.
- Decorate bags for participants to take home, fill with food and return.
- Designate theme days: fill a play pin with baby food items, plant a "canned vegetable" garden, etc.

F.A.Q.

Where can I drop off food after my food drive?

You can drop food off at the Sumner Community Food Bank during our open hours, from 8am-1:30 pm Monday-Saturday. Our address is:

➔ 15625 Main St. E, Sumner, WA 98390

If you have a large amount of food, please call to schedule a drop off time.

Can I host a funds drive instead?

Yes! Monetary donations are a great way to show your support. Cash donations go toward food purchases for staples such as milk, eggs, cheese & meat, and allow us to operate the food bank and keep people fed. Every \$1 donated can provide 5 meals, which means your dollar can go even further in feeding our neighbors in need!

Will the food bank share our food drive on social media?

We'd love to post about your drive and share pictures! Be sure to take pictures during the drive, and just be sure to get permission from those in the pictures for the food bank Facebook and/or online. You can email details and pictures to Katie @ communications@sumnerfoodbank.org.

How many pounds of food does the Sumner Community Food Bank distribute?

In 2024, we distributed over **4.2 million pounds** of food, up from 3 million in 2023, and over double what we distributed in all of 2021!

What foods can we donate?

Please see the Resource Section for a full list, but in short, you can donate any canned or unopened pre-packaged food. We also accept pet food, fresh produce, & hygiene items such as toothpaste, shampoo, & feminine hygiene products.

What foods don't work as well in a food drive?

In the interest of food safety, we cannot distribute out of date, opened containers, or home cooked/canned food to our clients. We also cannot accept donations of used clothing or household items.

Can you pick up food instead of having me deliver it?

For large bulk donations, we can schedule a pickup in one of our larger trucks. Call our office at 253-863-2996 for more information.

Is there a specific quantity of food required to host a food drive?

Nope! Any amount of nutritious & non-perishable food helps feed people in our community. Depending on the amount of food collected, the Sumner Community Food Bank can even pick up the food during their regularly scheduled pick-up schedule.

How much does a can of food weigh?

A can of food typically weighs about 15 oz., so almost 1 pound. A meal is typically considered to be 1.2 pounds of food.

Are there volunteer opportunities at the food bank?

Absolutely! We love having people get involved, and we could not function as a food bank without our wonderful volunteers. For more information on how to sign up, go to sumnerfoodbank.org/volunteer or call 253-863-2996.

Who can I contact for any other questions?

For any other questions, please contact Jerry Schwartz at 253-863-2996, or at community@sumnerfoodbank.org

Resources

Here are some resources for your food drive. If you need more promotional flyers, ideas, or have a question about promoting your food drive, please contact Katie Garling at communications@sumnerfoodbank.org.

List of Foods Needed

Here is a list of the generally most needed foods at the Sumner Community Food Bank. If you want to fill a timely & specific need of the food bank, please contact Jerry Schwartz at 253-863-2996, or at community@sumnerfoodbank.org.

- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned Meats: chicken, tuna, spam, etc.
- Canned Vegetables: green beans, corn, mixed vegetables
- Canned Fruit: peaches, pears, pineapple, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail.
- Canned Starches: SpaghettiOs, ravioli, chili, pork & beans, baked beans.
- Dry Starches: rice, Rice-a-Roni, Hamburger Helper, Mac & cheese, pasta, noodles
- Tomato Products: tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, salsa
- Soups: Vegetable, chicken noodle, tomato, other varieties, broth
- Condiments: ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, hot sauce, fish sauce.
- Personal Hygiene: shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, deodorant
- Holiday Items: turkey, stuffing, hams, cranberry sauce, rolls, yams, green beans, packaged desserts.

Food Drive Theme Ideas

- **Back to School** – Host a drive benefiting our Backpack Program, with foods such as fruit cups, chips, pudding, fruit snacks, Top Ramen, Hot Chocolate, & Jell-O.
- **Love to Bake** – Ask for baking items such as flour, sugar, oil, salt, baking soda/powder, & mixes.

- **Oodles of Noodles** – Ask for all types of pasta & sauces, and types of noodles such as egg noodle, spaghetti, ramen, etc.
- **Garden Generosity** – Host a drive specifically for vegetarian foods such as canned fruit, canned vegetables, and plant-based protein like soy, peanuts, & beans.
- **T.P.D.** – Host a toilet paper drive! Toilet Paper is always highly requested.
- **Clean Up your Community** – Host a hygiene drive for items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste & toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, lotion, & feminine hygiene products.
- **Maybe Baby** – Host a baby item drive, including baby food, diapers of all sizes, wipes, formula, etc.

Social Post Templates

Promoting your food drive is important to its success. Here are some social media tips and templates to get started! If you're posting on Facebook, don't forget to tag Sumner Community Food Bank: [@SumnerCommunityFoodBankWA](https://www.facebook.com/SumnerCommunityFoodBankWA)

Before your food drive:

Get the word out early and often about your food drive. Build enthusiasm by announcing your theme, any competitions you are running, and your food drive goal. We recommend posting at least 1/week for at least 2 weeks beforehand.

- Join [Your organization/company] in supporting the Sumner Community Food Bank by donating canned & pre-packaged food to our food drive [dates & location]
- Fight hunger in [your city/community] by donating to our food drive for the Sumner Community Food Bank

During the food drive:

During the food drive, keep the momentum going by keeping people updated on milestones reached, leaderboard standings, & food insecurity facts to show the need in your community.

- We're halfway to our goal of [goal amount]! Help us blow past that goal by donating food at [location] before [food drive end date]!

- Our teams are neck and neck for most food donated for our food drive! Support your team AND the Sumner Community Food Bank by donating before [food drive end date]

After your food drive:

Be sure to thank your donors after the food drive is over and update them on the amount of food or money raised! Be sure to post pictures & video of your accomplishments!

- Thanks to you, we were able to raise over [pounds of food] for people experiencing food insecurity in our community. Way to go!
- We did it! We raised [goal/total amount donated] for the Sumner Community Food Bank, and hungry families in our community!

JOIN US IN OUR CAMPAIGN

FOOD DRIVE

HELP FEED OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!

Most Needed Items:

Canned Meat, Rice, Noodles,
Canned Tomato Products,
Canned Fruit, Condiments,
Peanut Butter, Baking Goods

Contact

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 www.sumnerfoodbank.org/



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JOIN US IN OUR CAMPAIGN

BACKPACK PROGRAM FOOD DRIVE

TAKE ACTION AGAINST CHILD HUNGER

Most Needed Items:

Hot Chocolate, Fruit Snacks,
Pudding, Fruit Cups, Chips,
Jell-O, Top Ramen, & other
child-friendly foods

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