

Good Turn for America Overview

Since the BSA's inception in 1910, both Scouts and Scouters alike have learned to live the principles of the Scout Oath and Law through community services and "helping other people at all times." With our rich history in mind, we are pleased to announce a new national service initiative — Good Turn for America.

What began with a singular act of service on a foggy London night quickly evolved into daily Good Turns and then into more encompassing national initiatives. These have included selling war bonds, collecting rubber and scrap metal, growing victory gardens during World War II, and more recently, Scouting for Food.

We now have the opportunity to raise our levels of community service and increase awareness of the Scouting program within our neighborhoods. Nationally, the Boy Scouts of America has partnered with The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and the American Red Cross to increase our efforts in meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Good Turn for America builds upon The Baltimore Area Council's "Year of Service" program. The program includes important partnerships with other community service organizations. These partnerships will provide many additional avenues for all of our members and participants to provide community service in their neighborhoods.

One of the strengths of the Good Turn for America initiative is that the National Office has included a data collection site where units can report their service projects throughout the year.

Units that report their project on the Web site will earn a Good Turn for America patch and year segment. After entering the information about their service project, they will be able to print a certificate that they can take to the Scout Shop and purchase their patch and segments for everyone who worked on the project.



Good Turn for America Patches and year segments are now available for order!

Step 1: Report your service project(s) on the website:
www.goodturnforamerica.org
See instructions on reverse side.

Step 2: Print your certificate and contact the BAC/BSA Scout Shop to place your order:

800 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21211
410-338-0144
Fax 410-338-0168

Who is eligible?

Units that earn the Baltimore Area Council 2004 Year of Service Program recognition.

Units that participated in the 2004 Scouting for Food Drive.

Unit participants of a service project that promote Scouting for Shelter: qualifying projects in this category must support people needing shelter or improved shelter, and those who are serviced by shelters.

Unit participants of a service project that promote Scouting for Healthy Living: qualifying projects in this category must inspire people to healthier living through the involvement in and promotion of activities focusing on good health habits, exercise, and good nutrition.

Project Ideas

Food Drives

Conduct or expand Scouting for Food programs

Participate in collaborative food drives and collect food donations for food pantries

Provide meals to the hungry

Assist agencies that provide meals to the needy by helping them prepare and serve the meals

Help deliver meals and food to the homebound and elderly in conjunction with organizations such as Meals on Wheels

Assist organizations that build homes for the needy

Take part in a Habitat for Humanity homebuilding project

Assist community beautification projects, including repairing/repainting homes and sprucing up the yards of those in need

Assist shelters and their occupants

Collect clothing, toiletries, and supplies for people living in shelters.

Collect books and school supplies for children living in shelters

Offer unit-level community and school-based sports and fitness clinics

Take a unit hike day/weekend

Fun run/walk/cycle event

Conduct a community health awareness project

Blood drives

Distribution of healthy living and drug abuse awareness literature

Conduct service projects to build healthier environments

Tree-planting and regeneration projects

Park or camp trail maintenance and repair

Go to:
www.goodturnforamerica.org
for more project ideas.

Procedure for Reporting Service Projects

Unit: _____

GTFA Unit ID: _____

STEP 1

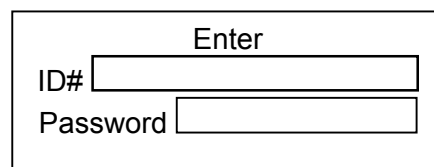
Contact your District Year of Service Chairperson – Vance Kovach (vlk57@comcast.net or 410-455-0398), District Executive – Alistair Hopkins (ahopkins@baltimorebsa.org or 443-573-2534), or the Baltimore Area Council Help Desk (443-573-2525) to get your assigned GTFA Unit ID # and Local Unit #.

STEP 2

- Go to the website www.goodturnforamerica.org
- Click on "Tell us about your Service Project".
- Click on "I Agree" when prompted with the website confidentiality statement.
- Click on the "Click Here" option to create a username and password.
- Provide your unit's ID and contact information then click on "Register".

You can now enter the service project information.

STEP 3

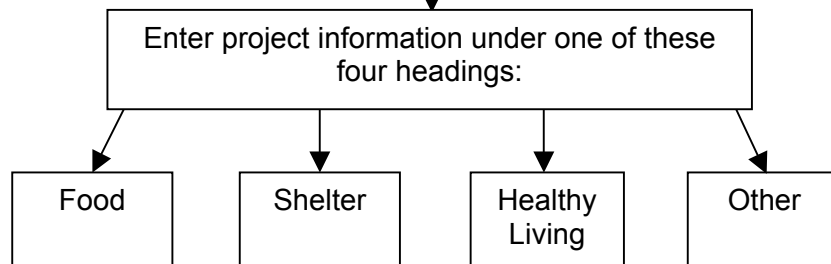


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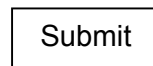
ID#

Password

STEP 4

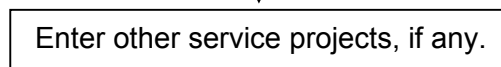


STEP 5



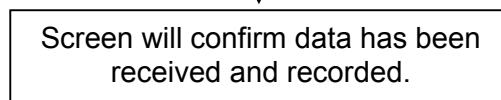
Submit

STEP 6



Enter other service projects, if any.

STEP 7



Screen will confirm data has been received and recorded.

DATA OUTPUT:

Local councils will be able to generate reports on council and district information via ScoutNET. National Council, region, and area directors will have access to the data for generating reports on a national level.