2014
Unit Leader's Guide

Scouting for Food

Mecklenburg County Council
Boy Scouts of America

to benefit

LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Mecklenburg County Council – Boy Scouts of America

Scouting for Food 2014

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Mecklenburg County Council
Boy Scouts of America

Dear Friends,

Saturday February 1, 2014, is Scouting for Food collection day in Mecklenburg County Council. Sunday February 2, 2014, is Scout Sunday. This first weekend in February is again our opportunity to deliver the promise of the Scouting program. On this weekend in February we can inspire youth and adult leaders, in and out of Scouting, to high levels of service and volunteerism. We can affirm that the BSA is the nation's leading organization in providing community service, and we can heighten our community's awareness of BSA's service commitment.

Scouting for Food is the official "**Good Turn for America**" for the Mecklenburg County Council. As an organization, the Boy Scouts are dedicated to giving back to our communities. Scouting for Food teaches youth the value of helping others. Through the Scouting For Food program, we as BSA members in Mecklenburg County again have the opportunity to come together and join thousands of other Scouts, Scouters, and Scout families, from our Packs, Troops, Varsity Teams and Venturing Crews, and Explorer Posts in a weekend effort to collect food for our neighbors in need.

The time for planning is now! Our goal for this year is for every MCC unit to participate in this worthwhile activity. Please take a minute and commit to your units participation in Scouting for Food 2014. In 2013 we collected over 264,000 pounds of food for our neighbors in need. With your help we can exceed this in 2014. Your hard work, your "Good Turn", and your cheerful service makes the difference!

This Unit Leader's Guide contains contact information, important dates, history and background information, food drop off locations, safety and courtesy notes. Also included are sample flyers, bulletin information, logos and clip art. We hope you will use this "tool" in your planning and food collection efforts.

So, we wish to "Thank you" in advance for your participation in Scouting for Food, and for your untiring service to our youth.

Yours in Scouting,

Mark Turner
Council Executive
Mecklenburg County Council

Del Whittaker
2014 Scouting for Food Chairman
Mecklenburg County Council

Mecklenburg County Council – Boy Scouts of America

Scouting for Food 2014

Background

Studies indicate that more than 50 million Americans, including 17 million children go hungry at some time every month; these studies also reveal that there are more hungry people in America now than in any time in the last twenty five years.

Hunger is a problem we can do something about by working together. Scouting for Food is a starting point. It is an example of our long-standing commitment to community service. Throughout this project the BSA directly helps meet the needs of the hungry, while exposing its members, particularly its youth, to the highest ideals of the Scouting movement through a practical and dramatic experience in the principle of the Good Turn.

BSA's role is to organize the food collection. Locally the food collected during the "Scouting for Food" campaign is warehoused and distributed by Loaves & Fishes from their 19 pantries, to our neighbors in need at no cost.

History

Thanks to the hard work of many scouts, scouters, and scouting families, the generosity of our friends and neighbors, these are the food totals from recent years.

- 2013 264,676 lbs.
- 2012 255,675 lbs.
- 2011 175,444 lbs.
- 2010 144,616 lbs.
- 2009 127,539 lbs.
- 2008 111,872 lbs.

2014 Goals

Our 2014 goal is to continue the campaign growth and collect over 275,000 pounds of food … plus to have every Troop, Pack, Varsity Team and Venturing Crew in Mecklenburg County Council actively participate in Scouting for Food.

Journey to Excellence/ Good Turn for America hours.

Scouting for Food is an annual Boy Scouts of America nationwide effort. Locally it is the Mecklenburg County Council/Catawba Lodge's council-wide service project. The food drive is a great opportunity for scouts of all ages to serve our community and for units to earn Journey to Excellence/ Good Turn for America hours.
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence.aspx

Once again, scouts are putting into practice our Scout slogan and one of our most basic teachings: "DO A GOOD TURN DAILY''

Loaves & Fishes

All the food collected will be distributed by Loaves & Fishes through its network of 19 food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County. Loaves & Fishes provides a week's worth of nutritious groceries, at no charge, to families and individuals in crisis. For more about Loaves & Fishes please visit: www.loavesandfishes.org.

Cash Contributions

Although the contribution of food is preferred, cash contributions are also accepted and will be used to buy needed food. Checks can be written to "BSA-Scouting for Food" and turned in to a Scouting for Food collection site coordinator. The BSA office will send out an acknowledgement to the donor.

Assigned Areas

Each unit is asked to distribute bags and pick up food only in their assigned area. Units with overlapping neighborhoods are asked to decide/agree ahead of time which neighborhoods they will cover. If you have any questions about your assigned area, please contact your district Scouting for Food Coordinator.

Service to Others

The 2014 Scouting for Food is rooted in the very foundation of the Scouting movement. Through initiative and hard work, the Boy Scouts have developed a framework that helps thousands of our neighbors in need. The Scouting for Food Campaign will continue to bring Scout units closer to their neighborhoods, Chartered Organizations, and community by focusing on this stewardship project aimed at addressing the problems of hunger in the communities in which we live and work.

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Important Dates

1. **October, November, and December 2013 Roundtables** - choose and "mark" the collection area(s) for your unit. - (District SFF coordinators will have your District maps).

2. **Before January 2014 Roundtable** - Estimate the number of bags your unit will need for your collection area. (Plus the number of bags needed if your unit is participating in church/congregational food collections).

3. **January Roundtable -** Pick up the SFF bags your unit will need. All units should be prepared to pick up (and transport) their SFF bags (both for neighborhood delivery and enough for church distribution). The bags come in bundles of 300. (Additional bags will be available at the Loaves & Fishes warehouse).

4. **Early January-** Church announcements **–** Ask your charter organization (churches) to place announcements in their January newsletters and/or bulletins. Ask your clergy to include Scouting for Food in their pulpit announcements.

5. **Week of January 25** - Neighborhood bag distribution **-** Please distribute bags to your assigned neighborhoods (five to seven days before the Scouting for Food Pick up day).

6. **Saturday February 1 – <u>Scouting for Food 2014</u> –** All units collect food from your assigned neighborhoods and deliver to one of the Scouting for Food (SFF) collection sites for weighing and sorting.

7. *If your unit is participating in church collections,(in addition to your unit(s) neighborhood collections), here are other important dates:*

   Sunday, January 26 - Distribute bags to members of your congregation**.**

   February 2 (Scout Sunday) - Gather the "congregational food donations", and take to a designated SFF Sunday collection site.

Mecklenburg County Council - Boy Scouts of America
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Quick Guide

Who: Scouts, leaders, and parents of Mecklenburg County Council Packs, Troops, Venture Crews, and Varsity Teams, and members of Catawba Lodge Order of the Arrow.

What: Scouting for Food is the largest single-day food collection event in Mecklenburg County. It is the number one council–wide "Good Turn for America" service project. On one day thousands of Scouts go door to door collecting non-perishable food items for our neighbors in need.

In 2013 Mecklenburg County Council Packs, Troops and Venture Crews, in cooperation with Catawba Lodge Order of the Arrow, collected weighed and sorted 264,676 pounds of food.

When: Beginning January 25, 2014, Mecklenburg County Council units will distribute food collection bags throughout our area.

On Saturday February 1st units will go door–to-door and collect bags filled with non-perishable food.

On Sunday February 2nd many units will collect donated food at local churches.

Where: Throughout all of Mecklenburg County area.

Why: Since BSA's inception in 1910, members have learned to live the principles of the Scout Oath and Law through community services and helping other people at all times. With that in mind, this is an ideal time to help Loaves & Fishes stock food pantries shelves.

All the food collected will be distributed from one of Loaves & Fishes 19 food pantries located in Mecklenburg County where it goes directly to individuals and families in need at no charge.

Goal: The goal for this Scouting for Food campaign is to have all MCC-BSA units participating this year. Set your units goal to "**do your best"**.

Mecklenburg County Council - Boy Scouts of America

Unit Leader Check List

✓ Meet with your District SFF Coordinator and choose your collection area.

✓ Determine how many scouts will participate and how many adults will be available to drive when distributing bags and when picking up the food.

✓ Determine how many homes are within your assigned collection area.

✓ Determine number of bags needed.

✓ Complete the "Request for Bags" Form and give to your District Coordinator .

✓ Create flyers and instructions to be included when distributing bags.

✓ Distribute bags and instructions to scouts before event – scouts should staple flyers/instructions to bags.

✓ Have leaders call to remind scouts the night before distribution and collection.

✓ Assemble all scouts and adults to receive final instructions before distributing and collecting bags.

✓ All scouts wear "Class A" uniforms when distributing and collecting bags.

✓ Scouts stay in buddy teams. Please note, no scout should be alone and none are to be driven in the back of pickup trucks.

✓ Begin distribution and collection after 9:00am, not earlier.

✓ Hang the bags on front door or place them on the front porch - do not knock, (but if the resident is outside or greets you, explain the program). Please do not cut across yards – use sidewalks or driveways – **DO NOT PUT BAGS ON OR IN MAILBOXES.**

✓ On collection day, only collect visible bags - do not knock or ask for bags.

✓ I**MPORTANT** - have a 'Clean Up' team re-visit your assigned area at least one time in the early afternoon in order to gather "missed or late" bags.

Mecklenburg County Council - Boy Scouts of America
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Contacts

Mecklenburg County Council Contacts:

Del Whittaker Council Chairman (704) 201-0490
delwhittaker@msn.com

Bill Kalbas Council SFF Media contact (813) 493-1512
w.kalbas@gmail.com

John Bittinger Council Staff Advisor (704) 342-9336
jbittinger@bsamail.org

District Coordinators

Apache District	**Phil Adams**	hrdadams@yahoo.com
Etowah District	**Bill Rose**	br855fox@carolina.rr.com
Hornets Nest District	**Steve Mazur**	stevie524@yahoo.com

Media Relations/Loaves & Fishes Contact

Sue Bruce Loaves & Fishes - Media Relations (704) 523-4333
sue@loavesandfishes.org

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Designated Food Collection Sites

Please deliver food only to the designated collection sites. Collection sites will be open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday (February 1st) and on Sunday (February 2nd) from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. All sites will be open both days.

NOTE: Harris Teeter stores are **NOT** designated drop off sites for scout units.

Arboretum Pineville Mathews Road and Providence Road
NOTE: the trailers are located in the lot in front of the Harris Teeter store.

Ada Jenkins Center
212 Gamble Street, Davidson, NC 28036-8137

Huntersville United Methodist
14005 Stumptown Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

Mulberry Presbyterian Church
5600 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28208

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
11501 Bain School Road, Mint Hill NC

Sharon United Methodist Church
4411 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211-3520

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3115 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28211-2797

Town Center Plaza
8600 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28213.

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Publicity

We ask that all publicity be coordinated by our marketing committee and Loaves & Fishes. Please let us know of any great "press" opportunities you may have, or if you have contacted the press please let us know.

Scouting for Food Marketing and Press contacts:

Bill Kalbas - Mecklenburg County Council Boy Scouts (813) 493-1512
w.kalbas@gmail.com.

Sue Bruce - Loaves & Fishes Media Relations (704) 523-4333
sue@loavesandfishes.org

Food Sorting

Sorting will be done at the designated food collection sites, but if units wish to pre-sort the categories are:

Vegetables
Fruit
Fruit Juice
Dry Goods
Meat, Peanut Butter and Canned Beans (all one category)
Glass
Baby Items
Miscellaneous Cans

Important Request

Any unused Scouting for Food Collection Bags – Please take them with you to a food collection site and turn them in when you drop off your food. These bags are used all year when Loaves & Fishes distributes the food to our neighbors in need.

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Church Notices

Scout Sunday is February 2, 2014

Please provide information to your sponsoring congregation in time to be included in:

- Weekly and monthly Newsletters and e-mail blasts during January and February.
- E-blast announcements
- Websites
- Sunday Bulletins

Sample Announcement:

Scouting for Food – Scout Sunday, February 2nd

Pack/Troop xx is participating in Scouting for Food to support Loaves & Fishes. Sunday, January 26th Scouts will distribute bags to members of the congregation. Simply fill the bags with non-perishable food items (no glass items please) and bring back the following **Sunday, February 2nd**. All food collected will go directly to feed our neighbors in need through Loaves & Fishes' network of 19 food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County.

Priority food needs include canned meats, canned pastas (such as SpaghettiO's), canned fruit, cereal and 100% fruit juice.

Please be generous and help Scouts do a good turn by feeding the hungry in our community!

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Flyers

(In this guide are flyers which you may use to attach to the Scouting for Food collection bags, or you may also make your own units flyers.)

1. Flyers for Bags:

- Preprinted flyers for Scouting for Food are available electronically.
- On the Scout Sunday flyers, be sure to add your Church name and Pack and/or Troop number in the spaces marked as (XX).
- To create your own flyers:
  It is always very effective when troops and packs create their own personalized flyers. Be sure that **Loaves & Fishes** is listed as the recipient and it is helpful to remind people not to include glass items.
- Be careful as you staple the flyers to the bags not to cover important information on the collection bags.

  NOTE: It is our suggestion that the Scouts do not put their full names on the flyers they place on the bags. Names are not really required, but if you use names, we suggest only the first initial and last name (for youth safety). Do not list the Scouts home address on the flyer – only generic information such as their Troop or Pack number or where their unit meets. We want to maintain "Safe Scouting".

Remember - Loaves & Fishes has suggested priority needs list. The items include canned meats, canned fruit, canned pastas (SpaghettiO's, ravioli, etc…), cereal and 100% fruit juice.

Clip Art for flyers.

LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Scouting for Food - February 1, 2014

Mecklenburg County Council - Boy Scouts of America

BSA – "Good Turn for America" - Help us support our neighbors in need!

On Saturday, February 1st, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Varsity Teams and Venture Crews will be participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive to support Loaves & Fishes. We will be going through the neighborhood collecting non-perishable food items beginning at 9:00 am. In greatest demand are canned meats, canned fruits, 100% fruit juices, canned pasta (such as SpaghettiO's), and cereal. (We cannot collect glass containers or frozen food.) Please donate to this food drive and place your food donations in this bag. Please place this bag on your front porch or by your mailbox by 9:00am Saturday, February 1st 2014.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Scouting for Food

on "Scout Sunday" - February 2, 2014

Please help us support our neighbors in need

On Scout Sunday, February 2nd, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from (XX) Church, Troop (XX) and Pack (XX), will be participating in the "Scout Sunday" portion of our annual Scouting for Food drive to support Loaves & Fishes. Our Scouts will be at the Sunday services, February 2nd, collecting non-perishable food items. In greatest demand are canned meats, canned fruits, 100% fruit juices, canned pasta (such as Spaghettios), and cereal. We cannot collect glass containers or frozen food. Please help us help our neighbors in need by donating to the annual Scouting for Food drive. Place your donation in the bag, and bring it with you to Church on Scout Sunday!

Thank you for your generosity and support in helping the Scouts.

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA
SCOUTING FOR FOOD

LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Recording Your Journey to Excellence/Good Turn for America Hours

To report information about your unit's Scouting For Food a service project you will need your unit ID (five to 11 digits) and your unit number (four digits, no letters – for example, Troop 24 should read 0024). You can get this information by calling your council service center (704) 333 5471.

Go to our website at www.scouting.org/Awards/JourneyToExcellence. Look for the "Service Project" area of the screen. Click on "Enter service hours here." Choose "Click here to log in or create an account." Volunteers with a My Scouting account can also reach the Journey to Excellence service hour website by clicking on the service hours link on the left side of the screen in the "Unit Tools" section.

First-Time Users

Select "Click Here" to register. Complete your information and create a user name and password. The user name must be unique (you may have to try again). Your e-mail address will be used only if you forget your password.

Returning Users

Enter your user name and password, and then click "Login." Select an option.

View All Previously Recorded Projects

To select the project you want to view or edit, click on the project name. To edit the project, click on the field, type in the correct information, and press "Update." To print a certificate, press "Print Certificate."

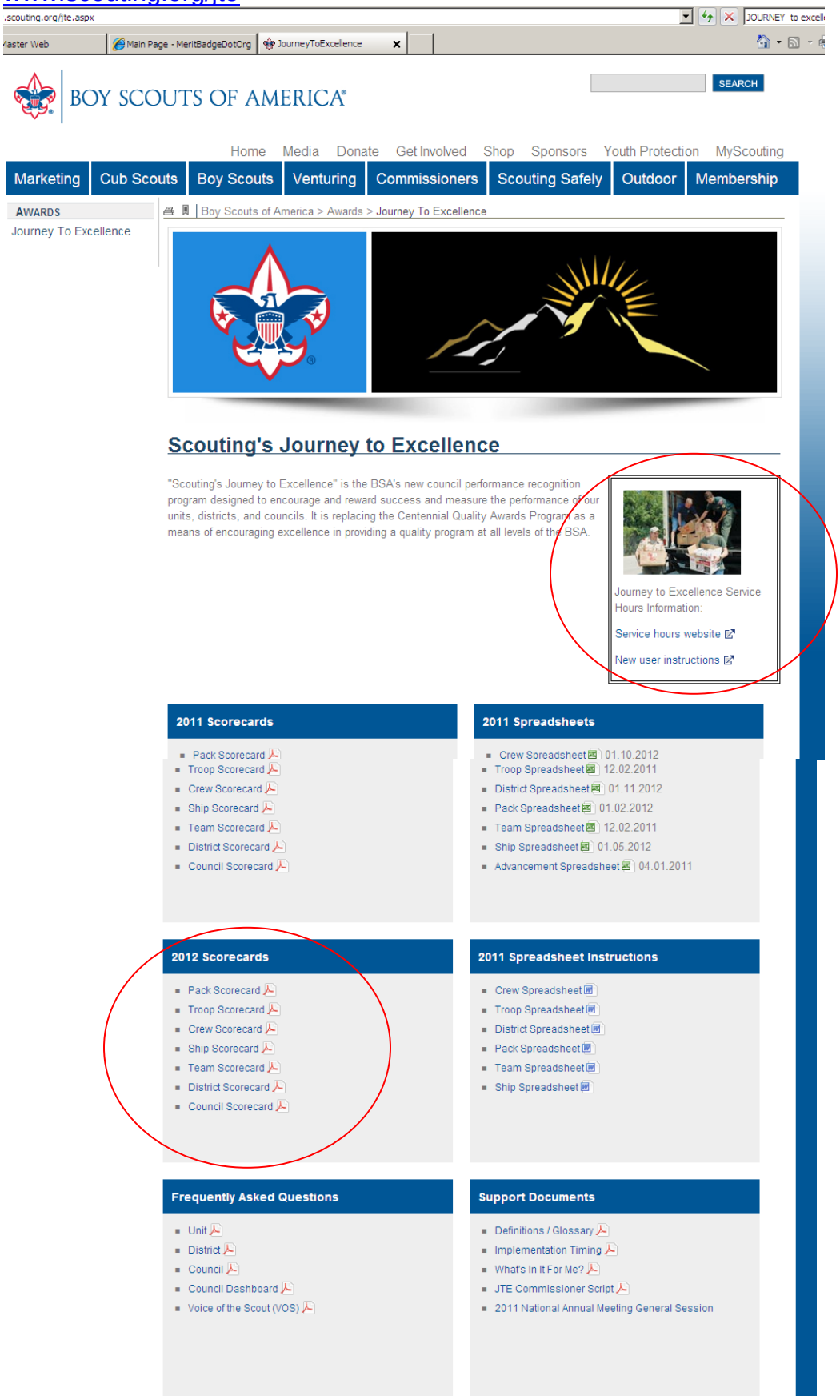
Report a Service Project

Select one service project type that best describes your project. Input the data requested:

- Date of the project
- Number of registered Scouts participating
- Number of non-Scouts (brothers, sisters, friends)
- Number of adult leaders participating
- Number of other adults participating
- Total hours worked (number of people times the length of time they worked)
- Organizations that joined you on the project
- Who or what organization benefited from the project
- Number of items collected (if applicable)

Click on "submit." When you submit your information, you will be asked whether you have any additional projects to record. To print a certificate, press "Print Certificate."

www.scouting.org/jte



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Thank you
for your generosity
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"Thank You" Door Hangers

These can be left behind at any home which has donated food to the Scouting for Food campaign.

Suggestion:

Punch a hole in the top corner and put yarn or string through the hole and hang on the door handle.

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Request for Bags & Unit Coordinator Contact Form

Number of Scouting for Food Bags needed for distribution _____.
(Bags come in Bundles of 300)

Check one:
- ☐ Pack
- ☐ Troop #_____ District _____
- ☐ Crew
- ☐ Team
- ☐ Post

Unit "Scouting for Food" Coordinator: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (H) _____(C)_____

NOTE:

BAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT YOUR JANUARY ROUNDTABLE

(Additional Bags will be available at the Loaves & Fishes Warehouse)
648 Griffith Road – Charlotte NC, 28217
(behind Costco Warehouse at Tyvola and I-77 exit 5)

ALL UNITS: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE TO YOUR SFF DISTRICT COORDINATOR