

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What if there is no food pantry nearby?

No problem! You can still make a difference. Consider:

- Donating directly to local community centers, churches, or shelters.
- Setting up a Little Free Food Pantry in your neighborhood or school.
- Organizing a community food drive to collect and deliver items to those in need.

2. Can school food drives count?

Absolutely! School food drives are a fantastic way to engage your peers and collect meaningful donations. Make sure to:

- Track the number of items collected.
- Document your planning, organizing, and volunteer hours.
- Take photos or videos if possible to share with your DRIVE Out Hunger report.

3. Can financial donations be included?

Yes! Monetary contributions are valuable because they allow food pantries to purchase items in bulk, pay for delivery, or provide fresh food. Keep a record of the donation and indicate how it was used in your documentation.

4. How do I document service activities?

Documenting your work is simple:

- Keep a log of hours spent volunteering.
- Record the number and types of items collected.
- Include photos, receipts, or thank-you notes from recipients or organizations.

5. What kinds of items are most needed?

Focus on nutritious, shelf-stable, and easy-to-prepare items. Examples include:

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Pasta and rice
- Peanut butter and beans
- Granola bars and cereal
- Personal hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, shampoo)

Check the Top 25 Most Needed Pantry Items section for a full list.

6. Can I involve my friends or family?

Yes! DRIVE Out Hunger encourages teamwork. You can:

- Organize a group collection in your neighborhood, school, or church.
- Host a mini food drive among friends, teammates, or classmates.
- Volunteer together at a local food pantry.

7. How do I stay safe while volunteering?

- Always follow guidelines from the food pantry or organization.
- Wash hands frequently and use gloves when handling food.
- If delivering items, don't enter homes unless instructed by the organization.
- Keep personal information private when interacting with recipients.

8. Can virtual or creative service projects count?

Yes! You can contribute even if you cannot be physically present:

- Promote awareness campaigns on social media.
- Design posters, flyers, or graphics encouraging donations.
- Create DIY meal kits or recipe guides for families.

9. How do I get recognition for my participation?

Document all activities, hours, and donations. Submit your report according to your delegate handbook guidelines. Outstanding contributions may be highlighted in program newsletters, social media, or during events.

10. Where can I find more resources or ideas?

Check:

- The DRIVE Out Hunger Project Handbook sections on meal bags, donation guides, and seasonal initiatives.
- Local food banks and pantry websites for donation lists and volunteer opportunities.
- Online platforms for youth-led food drives or virtual volunteering.