**For Immediate Release**

**Greater St. Louis Area Council, BSA**

***<insert date>***

**Contact:** *<insert name>*

**e:** *<insert email>*

**Annual Scouting For Food Drive Coming To A Neighborhood Near You**

***<insert town; example: ST. LOUIS, Mo.>* –** Thousands of Scouts will be canvassing area neighborhoods this weekend as they deliver more than one million Scouting For Food bags to local residents on Saturday, Nov. 11. Scouts will return one week later on Nov. 18 to collect the bags full of donated canned goods. This year’s campaign, sponsored by MERS Missouri Goodwill, marks the Boy Scouts’ 33rd annual Scouting For Food drive.

The largest one-day food drive in the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts throughout St. Louis, southeast Missouri, and southern Illinois collect approximately 2 million donated food items during Scouting For Food. The food is delivered to a network of about 500 food pantries around the region and provides more than 550,000 meals annually for families in need.

Canned good donations in *<insert your town name>* are picked up by Scouts and taken to *<insert your pantry/food bank location>* where it is sorted and put on shelves ready to feed the hungry.

Scouting For Food comes at an important time of year. As colder temperatures settle in, many families are forced to cut their food budget in order to keep the heat on. Scouting For Food also helps make the holidays a little brighter for families in need.

Residents who do not receive a bag can take canned food donations to any Goodwill store location Nov. 19-25.

**About the Greater St. Louis Area Council**A United Way agency, the Greater St. Louis Area Council provides youth with character development programs and values-based leadership training. The council, one of the largest in the Boy Scouts of America, has more than 66,000 members and nearly 15,000 adult volunteers. They come from 51 different counties in the Southeast Missouri, Southern Illinois and St. Louis Metropolitan areas. For more information, visit stlbsa.org.

**About MERS Missouri Goodwill Industries**

MERS Goodwill changes lives through the power of work. Its vision is a community where each individual has the opportunity to learn, work, and achieve their greatest potential. Annually serving more than 60,000 individuals, the non-profit agency operates in 75 locations serving 89 counties in the bi-state area. Revenues from 44 Goodwill stores assist with funding MERS Goodwill job training and employment services. MERS Goodwill is a proud member of the United Way. For more information about MERS Goodwill or to find a Goodwill donation center near you, call (314) 241-3464 or visit [www.mersgoodwill.org](http://www.mersgoodwill.org/).

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