

All Aboard for Tosa Cares Q&A

Q: When is the event?

A: Tuesday, December 6. The start time is to be confirmed but we have been told it is a tentative start of 5pm. It is the first stop of the evening.

Q. What is All Aboard for Tosa Cares?

A. This is a food drive that runs from late October through the week of the Train Stop (December 6) – culminating with the CP Holiday Train Stop in Wauwatosa. The purpose is to work with as many Girl Scout troops and community organizations to collect as much food and cash as possible.

The event started in 2015 with a first ever stop in Wauwatosa. For that event, we had over 15,000 people attend and raised over 13,000 pounds of food and \$4750 in cash donations.

Our goal this year is to collect as much or more food and donations.

Q. What is the Holiday Train?

A. The CP (Canadian Pacific) Holiday Train is a goodwill train that travels the US from east to west - stopping in select cities to provide live entertainment and raise awareness of food needs / increase donations to local food pantries. A prerequisite for the train to stop is for there to be an active food drive in the community. All Aboard for Tosa Cares is that food drive.

Q. How can you be involved?

A. We are asking all Girl Scout troops who are interested in being involved to join us by collecting donations and volunteering time leading up to, during and after the event to help with food sorting and delivery to the food pantry.

Q. What is the timeline?

- A. Oct 17 Kick off Meeting
- Oct 31 Food drives run by troops
- Dec 2 Drop off food drive donations at Tosa Cares
- Dec 6 Attend / volunteer at the CP Holiday Train Stop
- Dec 7 Help with food sorting/ shelf stocking

Q. Why are we running a food drive in Wauwatosa?

A. Tosa Cares has seen 335 families in the past year (about 166 per distribution). There is a larger food need than most people believe there to be in Wauwatosa and the immediate surrounding area.

Q. Are we only donating to Tosa Cares?

A. Though many churches and organizations run food pantries, we are focusing our efforts on collections for Tosa Cares. During the train stop last year, we were able to successfully collect donations for Tosa Cares and they were able to distribute these donations across many months. For many people in the Wauwatosa and surrounding communities, this is a main resource to address their food insecurities.

Q. How can you promote your food drive?

A. We have put together several "best practices" for promoting this event:

- Create bins with the All Aboard for Tosa Cares logo
- Hand out flyers in PTA folders/ weekly school communications
- Create posters
- Do morning/ afternoon PA announcements
- Partner with a local business to be a donation collection site. IE contact Cranky Als, Sentry, Kattywampus, Leffs, etc and ask if they will promote the food drive and allow you to have your bin at their location. IE: receive a discount on xxxx with the donation of a can of soup. NOTE: regardless of the bin location, remember you are responsible for picking up the donations to ensure the bins aren't overflowing.
- Please join our Facebook Event for All Aboard for Tosa Cares here <https://www.facebook.com/events/662834853891780/?ti=icl> and share it to encourage attendance.
- Be sure to encourage people to not only bring in donations in advance but to also **attend the event and bring donations that night as well.**
- Sign up for volunteer opportunities on the Volunteer Spot for Tosa Cares - they will be looking for volunteers to help with the collection on Dec 2, Dec 6 and the rest of the week.
- Post pictures of your bin/ troop working to do the food drive on the event page.
- Invite family, friends and neighbors to support your efforts and attend the event.
- If you are doing a food drive, please let us know so we can monitor activity leading up to the Dec 6 event.

Q. How will we be promoting the event?

A. We are working to secure earned media with local stations again and hope to be able to bring in some other Girl Scouts to be on the stations with us. We have also created a Facebook event and will be reaching out to print media like Metro Parent, TosaNOW and MJS.

Q. What is your role with food donations?

A. It will be your troops responsibility to make bins, promote your part of the food drive, monitor supplies and make sure food is picked up. Also, we ask that you check for expiration dates to ensure all food items are current. Include a call out on your posters, flyers and any other communication to remind people to NOT donate expired food items. Encourage people to donate healthy foods! (Look for the heart healthy logo on the product).

Lastly, before you bring your donations to Tosa Cares, count how many items you have and complete the donation form (attached) with all relevant information.

Q. When and where should you bring donations?

A. All troops will be asked to bring their donations to **Tosa Cares**, located at Mount Zion Church, on **Dec 2**, between **3:30-6:00pm**. There will be sign up times.

Q. Can we collect money?

A. Yes. If someone wants to donate money, they should make the check out to **Tosa Cares** and bring it as part of your overall food donation on Dec 2.

Q. How else can we support this effort?

A. We will be looking for volunteers to help with:

- Sorting and food intake on Dec 2.
- Food collection at the train stop
- Food sorting after the train stop

Q. How should we document our donations.

A. Please use the attached All Aboard for Tosa Cares troop donation form.

Q. How can you be involved the night of the event?

A. We will have a volunteer spot sign up for scouts to be involved with collecting food donations the night of the event. They will have the opportunity to push carts through the crowd to collect donations and transport them to the food collection trucks.

Q. Is there a fun patch for this activity?

A. Yes! There are many options for food drive fun patches you can purchase at the Girl Scout Service Center- 131 S. 69th St., Milwaukee WI 53214