

During this time of crisis, we would like to remind you that "a Scout is helpful."

There are many in our Scouting family who are helping everyday, from those who work in the essential services like medical, supply lines, public works, etc., to those who are caring for others who cannot care for themselves like the elderly and the children of those who are still going to work.

The state has provided a [list of essential services](#) which include "Workers who support food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, such as those residing in shelters."

There are some essential services that rely heavily on volunteer support and are currently facing staffing shortages. One such agency is our partner in the 2020 Scouting for Food campaign, [The San Diego Food Bank](#). They are in need of people 11 years or older to work three hour shifts.

[Urban Angels](#) and the [San Diego Rescue Mission](#) can use assistance with all aspects of serving meals to those in need. Minimum age for volunteers is 16.

[Serving Seniors](#) has a specific crisis efforts during this time. Contact them directly for details.

There are many other agencies in need, probably one in your neighborhood.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Are you providing an "[essential service](#)" as defined by the state?
- Do you need Personal Protective Equipment to perform the service or will other precautionary methods suffice? [California Department of Public Health: Use of Personal Protective Equipment during COVID-19](#)
- Have you contacted the agency you plan to volunteer with to help to ensure that they are ready for you or your group and that your volunteer efforts will comply with all state executive orders and safety protocols?
- If you are participating as a unit, have you reviewed this plan with your unit leadership, including your chartered organization?

- Will you be able take proper precautions at all times including travel to and from?

Be sure to keep health and safety—both your own and others’-- at the forefront of all you do. Minimizing the spread of the coronavirus is the most helpful thing you can do.

Let us know how you and your Scouts are making a difference.