



Troop 695 Food Policy

Revised: 4/3/2012

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Purpose

The purpose of this food policy is to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all scouts in Troop 695. We currently have scouts with a variety of food allergies and intolerances, and will continue to do so as new scouts join. While reactions can vary, we do have a scout that could have SEVERE and LIFE-THREATENING reactions to peanuts.

Food is a definite part of scouting, from campouts to troop celebrations to just a treat at some scout event. To ensure the safety and well-being of ALL of our scouts, it is incumbent upon all of us (Scouts, Leaders and Parents) to ensure this food policy is followed.

Policy in Brief

1. No peanuts, tree nuts or products containing peanuts or tree nuts at any Troop event.
2. No individual scout is to bring food or snacks to Troop/Patrol events.
3. All Troop and Patrol events must follow the food procedures outlined for each event.

Responsibilities

Scouts and the parents/guardians of scouts must make the troop aware of any food allergy that affects their scout; and of any food related needs that affect their scout based on persona or religious reasons.

Adult leaders (Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, COH Coordinator) are responsible for ensuring the food policy is followed and overall ensuring the safety of all of our scouts.

Other Scouts and Parents are to follow the food policy as described, support the troop's efforts to be a safe and welcoming environment for all scouts.

Food Allergy Information

FAAN: The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network <http://www.foodallergy.org/>

Mayo Clinic on Peanut Allergy <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/peanut-allergy/DS00710>



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FAQ

Is this a new policy for 2012?

No. However, this food policy defines and describes the practices we have been working with and revising for a few years.

Can't a scout with allergies just avoid eating peanuts himself?

Unfortunately reactions can, and do, vary by person. Some people do NOT react unless they directly ingest a peanut product. Others can react after touching an article that had peanut butter on it awhile ago, or by simply breathing in peanut product through the air.

Can a peanut or food allergy really be that serious?

Yes. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction and can cause death.

What about other food allergies besides peanuts and nuts?

We will revise and amend the food policy as needed based on our scout and adult population. With allergies to dairy, gluten, etc. all continuing to increase, it is likely our troop will have to make modifications to restricted items in the future.

Can't we just get a list of "ok to eat for peanut allergy" products?

No. Because production lines change, product ingredients change, etc. a person with severe allergies to a specific product will always have to read labels before eating to ensure their own safety. If it were as simple as saying that X, Y, and Z were safe, we would provide that list.

Why focus on food allergies, what about scouts who may not eat a specific food for personal or religious reasons?

The answer is simply one of safety. A person with severe peanut allergies can react to the allergen just by proximity, and it can be life threatening. However, ANY scout with specific food requirements must make these known to the leadership of the troop. Personal or religious choices regarding food will be respected as well.