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# Randolph NEWS

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## Randolph Cub Scouts Collect For Food Pantry

By Henry M. Holden

On Feb. 11, Cub Scout Pack 50, in Fernbrook, collected more than 1,000 food items that were then donated to the Bethlehem Church Food Pantry. The pantry serves Randolph and the surrounding communities, regardless of religious affiliation.

"Pack 50 meets once a month and does community service projects throughout the year," says Edward J Wysmierski, Jr., the pack photographer, and public relations person. "The food drive is an annual event that occurs during the week of our Blue and Gold Dinner. This special event commemorates the founding of the Cub Scouts of Ameri-



Pack 50 with just a small portion of the food that was collected and brought to its annual Blue and Gold Dinner. Photo by: Edward J Wysmierski Jr.

ca."

The drive lasts for one week. ShopRite donates the bags, and the scouts deliver the bags to the Fernbrook

neighborhood.

"We had 100-percent of the pack available participating," he said. "We had two scouts on vacation, and

27 cub scouts took part. The food drive has been going on for many years. We had nine boys cross over from

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## Food Pantry...

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Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts but continue their participation in this food drive."

The scouts get a service award for taking part, and a patch that they can sew on their uniform shirts.

The Cub Scouts will collect any nonperishable food items.

"We have a coordinator for the food drive, and she assigns each Den a particular section of the Fernbrook neighborhood," he explains. "Each Den will break down into different streets. Each scout gets two streets, maybe a little more depending on how long the street. A parent goes with each scout. We don't allow any scouts to ring door bells or do this by himself.

"The cub scouts put fliers inside the bags listing which food items they

are looking for, and a flyer that tells them a something about the Cub Scouts," he says. "The scouts will hang the bags on the door knob, or on the mailbox flag. We return the following week to collect the bags left by the front door, hopefully with food in them.

"Some of the Cub Scouts goals are to promote good citizenship, character development, and personal fitness," says Wysmierski. "And while there are seven methods of cub scouting, one of them is to serve the neighborhood and community. This food drive certainly fits into that category.

"One thing we also do is set the cub scout's eyes in preparation for the Boy Scouts. We are always looking for boys to join scouting."

In the past, the Cub

Scouts has only been available to kids in the first grade through the fifth grade.

"My wife is taking part in a pilot program to open Cub Scouts to kindergarten so that's something new for us this year," says Wysmierski.

"If the boy is in kindergarten he is eligible to join Cub Scouts, but we don't take them earlier than kindergarten."

Cub Scout Pack 50 is part of the Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America, and is a chapter of the National Cub Scouts. Pack 50 has been a part of the in Fernbrook Elementary School since 1983.

For more information on joining the Cub Scouts, contact [thewysenheimers@gmail.com](mailto:thewysenheimers@gmail.com) or <https://cubscouts.org/>.