

8 STEPS TO START FOOD RESCUE AT YOUR SCHOOL



1 GETTING APPROVAL



Set up a meeting with the school principal and the school's cafeteria manager and introduce K-12 Food Rescue benefits.



Use the Open Letter To Schools Infographic at FoodRescue.net. Review K-12 Food Rescue procedures.

- Safe, Easy, and Legal
- Reduce Food Waste
- Protect Environment from Greenhouse Gases
- Plan Meals More Effectively with Food Waste Data Collected
- Feed Families Instead of Landfills

2

FINDING AN ADVISOR

Find a teacher or staff member willing to oversee the program and provide assistance and advice.



3

CREATING A FOOD RESCUE TEAM



Find a group of dedicated students that will help you run the program. Roles include collecting the food, counting the food, and promoting the program. Ideas can be found on Food Rescue's Infographic library at FoodRescue.net

Set up an initial meeting with your advisor calling for interested students.

4

FINDING AN ORGANIZATION



Find an organization such as a food pantry with food safety handling standards and volunteer capacity willing to pick up the food each week.



Review school procedures for entering the building with the food pantry. Review the agenda and encourage both parties to ask questions. Establish main and back up contact numbers for both the school and food pantry.



It is critical for the food pantry or organization to propose days and times that do not disturb the cafeteria staff during their busiest days or hours.



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FOOD STORAGE EQUIPMENT

Plastic gloves are also recommended if food items are handled in any way during the K-12 Food Rescue program after they are donated.



REFRIGERATION :

You can either get a new fridge donated or use pre-existing refrigeration.



COOLER

It is important that while perishable rescued food is sitting in the cafeteria throughout lunches, it is being cooled.



CRATES/BOXES (OPTIONAL):

Having crates or boxes makes it easy to transport food from the cooler to the fridge, and for the organization to collect the food.

6

CREATE A PLAN



- Create a K-12 Food Rescue action plan. Go to the infographics library at FoodRescue.net for potential ideas. Make environmental stewardship the top value of the program. Do not create a program that seeks donations over consumption.
- The plan should include: who is collecting the food from each lunch, who will fill the cooler with ice in the mornings, who will count the food, how will the program be advertised, and how will you encourage students to participate etc.
- Food Rescue's Free Tracking Tool is a great way to collect data by food items or pounds and receive attractive digital graphics to share the impact of your program in meals preserved, and methane gas reduction. Visit Free Tracking Tool at FoodRescue.net

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Contact the Local Health Department

Cafeteria Manager or Staff Member Makes Call

Make a courtesy call to the local health department informing them the K-12 Food Rescue Program is being implemented using USDA written guidelines, and if applicable, state guidelines.

View the written Frequently Asked Questions, (FAQ's) on the Get Started link at FoodRescue.net



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YOU'RE READY!

Congratulations! Your school is now ready to host a K-12 Food Rescue program at your school! Keep track of your school's progress through the K-12 Food Rescue Tracking Tool and send photos and a blog post to Food Rescue to inspire your peers to follow your leadership.

K-12 **FOOD + RESCUE**

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