



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**  
~ A 2017 JAMBOREE *FOOD TEAM* COMMUNIQUE ~  
~ JULY 2016 ~

One year from now the 2017 National Scout Jamboree will commence. Thousands of staff will welcome tens of thousands of participants to this recurring Scouting reunion. I don't feel out on a limb in saying that this event is likely to be among the lifetime highlights of the youth Scouts who go, especially those for whom it is the first Jamboree.

They are the reason many of us make this pilgrimage, with our volunteer friends, to help assure that the Jamboree food happens. Thankfully it is more than just giving of our time next July, for joining the Food Team staff one finds that the Jamboree becomes memorable in a variety of ways that are not necessarily the same as attending as either a Scout or a Unit Leader.

Let me start with a brief trip down memory lane, for behind the scenes food work always has its moments and perhaps by seeing that it's not predictable some may be encouraged to give it a try. Dial back in time to a prior Jamboree, dates aren't relevant but suffice it to say that cell phones were not commonplace and instead we used push to talk radios to communicate and coordinate food delivery to the units. The transmission volley went something like this:

*Hey Squire . . . [click] . . . we have a problem . . . [click] . . . a big problem . . . [click] . . . Night Rider [the call sign for the Food Team volunteer] backed the forklift off the asphalt and just dropped the milk . . . [click] . . . a whole pallet of milk . . . [click] . . . it's going everywhere like a white river . . . [click] . . . total loss . . . [click] . . . what do we do???????*

As quickly as that hit the airwaves, Coachman (call sign for the lead of the 'Food Resolution' team) and several others were on the way. That's their job. Then and now they will be the ones to move food around and with the help of all our teammates we will assure that every scout gets fed, every snack bar has what it needs and every bit of food chaos that comes up somehow gets worked out. That's just part of what we do, which hopefully few but us see, but the fact we work together to do it is what makes a good team!

We have a volunteer organizational chart filled with skilled folks to manage all the different things that simply make the food happen during the Jamboree – from the grand Staff Dining hall to the various Retail Food establishments to the Jamboree Grocery Stores and several more specialized jobs. Here is the link to a copy of organizational chart of our team:

<http://jamboreefoodteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/2016-07-14-Jamboree-Food-Team-Org-Chart.docx>



Hopefully you will sense that we have assembled a group of volunteers, ably assisted by key professionals, that can get the job done while making it possible to have fun in the process. This openly communicating team of ours is one that welcomes others and we would be glad to fill our available remaining spots with folks who would like to join a winning team.

All it would take to put us at capacity is for some of those who have signed up to get a friend to join and we will be there. I wouldn't suggest delaying because the choices of available positions on the 2017 Jamboree Food Team is going down. I didn't expect to be saying that already but it's nice to be able to share a year in advance that we are fully staffed in the following areas: Retail Food Pop-ups, the Chat 'n Chew Staff Camp Retail Food Experience, the *Summit2Go* lunch team, Ice Distribution and the Food Service Support Team. Spots remain available still at several of the Snack Bars (both in the Base camps and in Summit Center), in the Legacy Village Catering department, on the Food Distribution Grocery Store team (though they are almost 90% full), on the Food Resolution team (if helping in situations such as the story above is your passion and you are forklift skilled and capable of driving a large box truck), and last but by no means least at the most convenient place for any staff to work – the Staff Dining Complex (just a minute or two walk from your tent in staff camp).

It seems likely that some who are reading this haven't themselves signed up for the Jamboree because for some it's hard to assure available vacation time from work in 2017. If you are interested in attending, but in that timing quandary, please feel free to reach out to our Food Team Staffing Manger. His name is Peter Ehni and can help put you in contact with the area lead you would like to work with, if vacation can be secured, so a spot can be held for you. Peter's phone is (740) 769-2910 and his email is [pehni@wju.edu](mailto:pehni@wju.edu)

If you have missed any of the past issues of this monthly Food For Thought newsletter because you are new to our team, you can find those as well as several other important Jamboree Food Team documents via the following link: <http://jamboreefoodteam.org/2017-jamboree-food-team-documents/>

Enjoy the summer and look forward to the camaraderie of the 2017 Jamboree, now that we are measuring the time to it in months rather than years.