Throughout Scouting there are different Cub Adventures, Scout BSA Rank Requirements and Merit Badge requirements that ask Scouts to be conscious of nutrition!

We have compiled some resources from the MyPlate program that will help all ages learn about nutrition and cooking safely!

Below are a list of some of the adventures, requirements and badges that require learning about and being conscious of nutrition.

- Tiger Bites: Requirements 1 and 6.
- Bear Picnic Basket: Requirements 1 and 3
- Cast Iron Chef: Requirements 1 and 2.
- First Class: Requirement 2A.
- Cooking Merit Badge: Requirements 2, 4, 5A and 6A.
Build a healthy meal

Each meal is a building block in your healthy eating style. Make sure to include all the food groups throughout the day. Make fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, and protein foods part of your daily meals and snacks. Also, limit added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Use the MyPlate Daily Checklist and the tips below to meet your needs throughout the day.

1. Make half your plate veggies and fruits
Vegetables and fruits are full of nutrients that support good health. Choose fruits and red, orange, and dark-green vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and broccoli.

2. Include whole grains
Aim to make at least half your grains whole grains. Look for the words “100% whole grain” or “100% whole wheat” on the food label. Whole grains provide more nutrients, like fiber, than refined grains.

3. Don’t forget the dairy
Complete your meal with a cup of fat-free or low-fat milk. You will get the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk but fewer calories. Don’t drink milk? Try a soy beverage (soy milk) as your drink or include low-fat yogurt in your meal or snack.

4. Add lean protein
Choose protein foods such as lean beef, pork, chicken, or turkey, and eggs, nuts, beans, or tofu. Twice a week, make seafood the protein on your plate.

5. Avoid extra fat
Using heavy gravies or sauces will add fat and calories to otherwise healthy choices. Try steamed broccoli with a sprinkling of low-fat parmesan cheese or a squeeze of lemon.

6. Get creative in the kitchen
Whether you are making a sandwich, a stir-fry, or a casserole, find ways to make them healthier. Try using less meat and cheese, which can be higher in saturated fat and sodium, and adding in more veggies that add new flavors and textures to your meals.

7. Take control of your food
Eat at home more often so you know exactly what you are eating. If you eat out, check and compare the nutrition information. Choose options that are lower in calories, saturated fat, and sodium.

8. Try new foods
Keep it interesting by picking out new foods you’ve never tried before, like mango, lentils, quinoa, kale, or sardines. You may find a new favorite! Trade fun and tasty recipes with friends or find them online.

9. Satisfy your sweet tooth in a healthy way
Indulge in a naturally sweet dessert dish—fruit! Serve a fresh fruit salad or a fruit parfait made with yogurt. For a hot dessert, bake apples and top with cinnamon.

10. Everything you eat and drink matters
The right mix of foods in your meals and snacks can help you be healthier now and into the future. Turn small changes in how you eat into your MyPlate, MyWins.

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
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Go to ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information.

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What's MyPlate All About?

Fruits

Vegetables

Grains

Protein Foods

Dairy

Choose MyPlate.gov

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
Find Your Healthy Eating Style & Maintain It for a Lifetime

Start with small changes to make healthier choices you can enjoy.

Follow the MyPlate building blocks below to create your own healthy eating solutions—"MyWins." Choose foods and beverages from each food group—making sure that your choices are limited in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars.

Make half your plate fruits and vegetables. Focus on whole fruits
- Choose whole fruits—fresh, frozen, dried, or canned in 100% juice.
- Enjoy fruit with meals, as snacks, or as a dessert.

Make half your grains whole grains
- Look for whole grains listed first or second on the ingredients list—try oatmeal, popcorn, whole-grain bread, and brown rice.
- Limit grain desserts and snacks, such as cakes, cookies, and pastries.

Move to low-fat or fat-free milk or yogurt
- Choose fat-free milk, yogurt, and soy beverages (soy milk) to cut back on saturated fat.
- Replace sour cream, cream, and regular cheese with low-fat yogurt, milk, and cheese.

Make half your plate fruits and vegetables. Vary your veggies
- Try adding fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables to salads, sides, and main dishes.
- Choose a variety of colorful veggies prepared in healthful ways: steamed, sautéed, roasted, or raw.

Vary your protein routine
- Mix up your protein foods to include seafood, beans and peas, unsalted nuts and seeds, soy products, eggs, and lean meats and poultry.
- Try main dishes made with beans and seafood, like tuna salad or bean chili.

Limit

Drink and eat less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars
- Use the Nutrition Facts label and ingredients list to limit items high in sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars.
- Choose vegetable oils instead of butter, and oil-based sauces and dips instead of ones with butter, cream, or cheese.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

Everything you eat and drink matters.
The right mix can help you be healthier now and into the future. Find your MyWins!

Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov to learn more.
be food safe  

Nutrition Education Series  

10 tips to reduce the risk of foodborne illness

A critical part of healthy eating is keeping foods safe. Individuals in their own homes can reduce contaminants and keep food safe to eat by following safe food handling practices. Four basic food safety principles work together to reduce the risk of foodborne illness—Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill. These four principles are the cornerstones of Fight BACÒ, a national public education campaign to promote food safety to consumers and educate them on how to handle and prepare food safely.

CLEAN

1 wash hands with soap and water
Wet hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available. Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all parts of the hand for 20 seconds. Rinse hands thoroughly and dry using a clean paper towel. If possible, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet.

2 sanitize surfaces
Surfaces should be washed with hot, soapy water. A solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water can be used to sanitize surfaces.

3 clean sweep refrigerated foods once a week
At least once a week, throw out refrigerated foods that should no longer be eaten. Cooked leftovers should be discarded after 4 days; raw poultry and ground meats, 1 to 2 days.

4 keep appliances clean
Clean the inside and the outside of appliances. Pay particular attention to buttons and handles where cross-contamination to hands can occur.

5 rinse produce
Rinse fresh vegetables and fruits under running water just before eating, cutting, or cooking. Even if you plan to peel or cut the produce before eating, it is important to thoroughly rinse it first to prevent microbes from transferring from the outside to the inside of the produce.

SEPARATE

6 separate foods when shopping
Place raw seafood, meat, and poultry in plastic bags. Store them below ready-to-eat foods in your refrigerator.

7 separate foods when preparing and serving
Always use a clean cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw seafood, meat, and poultry. Never place cooked food back on the same plate or cutting board that previously held raw food.

COOK AND CHILL

8 use a food thermometer when cooking
A food thermometer should be used to ensure that food is safely cooked and that cooked food is held at safe temperatures until eaten.

9 cook food to safe internal temperatures
One effective way to prevent illness is to check the internal temperature of seafood, meat, poultry, and egg dishes. Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb, and veal steaks, chops, and roasts to a safe minimum internal temperature of 145 °F. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least 3 minutes before carving or eating. Cook all raw ground beef, pork, lamb, and veal to an internal temperature of 160 °F. Cook all poultry, including ground turkey and chicken, to an internal temperature of 165 °F (www.isitdoneyet.gov).

10 keep foods at safe temperatures
Hold cold foods at 40 °F or below. Keep hot foods at 140 °F or above. Foods are no longer safe to eat when they have been in the danger zone between 40-140 °F for more than 2 hours (1 hour if the temperature was above 90 °F).

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Go to www.ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information.  
Go to www.fsis.usda.gov for food safety information.