## Storefront Help Sheet

## Northern Star Council, Popcorn Sale

## Revised 8-2-16

Storefronts are a great way for your unit to increase popcorn sales, get in front of the community and teach the Scouts some valuable skills. This sheet is not an all encompassing list, but it will help you plan out your storefronts. If you have suggestions, please email popcorn@nsbsa.org.

## What is a Storefront?

A storefront sale is a Scouting unit arranging time in front of a local store to sell popcorn for a certain amount of time. They can make up part of your overall sale, but should not make up a large portion of the sale.

## Selecting a Store

Consider stores that have a lot of foot traffic for the time(s) you are interested in. Grocery, Sporting Goods, Hardware stores are great for weekend hours. Gas stations are great for 5-7 weeknight hours. Stores that cater to men are usually better, because chances are they were in Scouting and want to support the program. A partial list of stores that do not allow any groups selling include Target, Home Depot and Menards. Stores are first come, first serve basis in all cases.

## Communication with the Store

- Initially contact the store manager to arrange a time for the Scouts to be there. Explain to them you are with the local Scouting unit and the Boys would like to sell popcorn in front of their store to help them raise dollars to go to camp and other Scouting activities.
- 2. Have some dates/times in mind to ask if they are available. Most popular times are Saturdays 9-4 and Sundays 11-5. Some weeknights from 5-8 are also popular depending on the store.
- 3. Make sure you note who you talk with, and who you can talk to the morning of.
- 4. Contact the store a week out to confirm the date/time. Talk with the store manager during the week, and potentially during the weekend. Most stores have different weekday and weekend managers.
- 5. Assure the manager that the Scouts will not be a deterrent to customers, that they will be welcoming and helpful (carts, groceries to car, holding doors, etc). And they will leave the area cleaner than they found it.
- 6. Make sure you know if you will be inside or outside, and if you need to bring your own table.

## Staffing your Storefront

- 1. Utilize the 2-2-2 method. 2 Scouts, 2 Parents for 2 hours. 2 hours is about the time that a youth can handle before they get "squirrely".
- 2. Use an online sign up form, like google docs, or signupgenius.com to schedule your storefronts and make it easier for your families to sign up for a slot.
- 3. Consider dividing up the dollars sold among everyone who sold that day. An "hourly" wage can entice some families because they know even if their Scout's were in the rain for 2 hours, they can encourage the next Scouts to do an awesome job.

## Products to bring/order

A few factors go into determining what and how much product to bring to a storefront.

- What type of store? Is it a major grocer, neighborhood hardware, gas station or small business?
- What hours? Is it a Saturday or a weeknight?
- When during the sale? Is it near the beginning or middle of sale?
- If you have questions on what to order/bring to a particular storefront, email popcorn@nsbsa.org

## Setting up your booth

- Ensure you have enough time to set up before your scheduled start.
- Go into the store and find your contact for the day. Hand the store manager the Council Contact/Insurance sheet
- Thank the contact and ask them if they have any questions.
- Label your products with prices from lowest to highest. Use Post it notes.
- Keep Chocolate Products out of the SUN! Melted products can NOT be returned.
- See the diagram below for a great way to set up your storefront.



## Setting expectations for Scouts and Parents

In order for the most successful storefront, make sure to set expectations for the Scouts and the parents. A good list could include:

- Be on time
- Be in full uniform (for sure Scout shirt)
- Uniform tucked in.
- No non Scouting hats
- No siblings that are not Scouts
- No chairs, have the Scouts stand in front of the table
- No eating during the shift.
- No electronics used, except Credit card readers.

#### Selling tips

- Bring a lot of \$10, \$15 and \$20 items.
- Have the Scouts ask "Would you like to see what we have for sale to help me go to camp?"
- Have the Scouts open doors, offer to get them a cart or unload their bags in their car. Having them be respectful teaches them that skill, and can lead to sales.
- Have the Scout talk about what product he likes best.

#### After the storefront

- Clean up your area
- Make sure to tell the store manager thank you. Writing a thank you card goes a LONG way with the stores.
- Make sure to have an inventory check at the end, and it matches the cash/checks/credit cards.

# COUNCIL CONTACT SHEET Updated 8-18-16

Dear Store Manager,

Thank you for helping Scouts go on Adventures. Your organization is helping some of the thousands of Scouts "earning their way" to shooting their first bow and arrow, catching their first fish, spend an overnight in a tent, learning the value of community service and much much more. You are part of something that will improve our communities for years to come, and we thank you.

While we do not expect anything out of the ordinary to occur, if you should have any questions or concerns about anything that happens during the time the Scouts are selling popcorn in front of your business, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you again all you have done for Scouting and the youth of tomorrow.

Bill Anderson-Horecka Northern Star Council 651-254-9146 Billa-h@nsbsa.org www.northernstarbsa.org

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