

Summer Nutrition Summit

January 12-13, 2026



Beyond Barriers: **Creative Solutions** **for Summer Meals** **in Rural** **Communities**

Summer Nutrition Summit 2026



MEET YOUR SESSION LEADS



Amy Biestek

Senior Manager, No Kid Hungry
Virginia



Evette Tovar-Lugo

Senior Manager, No Kid Hungry
California

WHAT'S AHEAD

Understand barriers to reaching kids in rural areas and see how others are overcoming them

Discover creative “hacks” and practical strategies from real-world programs

Identify partners and resources to expand summer meal access in your community

Develop a personal action step to tackle one barrier in your own work





RURAL HACKS CHALLENGE WORKSHEET

Goal: Capture ideas, partnerships, and action steps you can apply to your rural non-congregate summer meal program.



1. Creative Ideas / Hacks I Hear



2. Partners or Resources I Could Leverage



3. Barriers + My Next Step

Disclaimer

Our speakers represent their own experience with non-congregate summer meal programs in their states and localities. Certain program models and implementation methods may be restricted in some states. Check with your local state agency before implementing any new meal service models or implementation methods.



GARY BYE

**Interim Executive
Director, FISH
Community Food Bank**



Relationships & Technology

NOW HIRING!



BONUS HACK #1

**Work smarter not harder:
Freeze meals during the
school year to serve during
the summer.**

Prep ahead to save time, labor and stress during summer service.



BONUS HACK #2

Double the impact: Combine grocery store “extras” with summer meals.

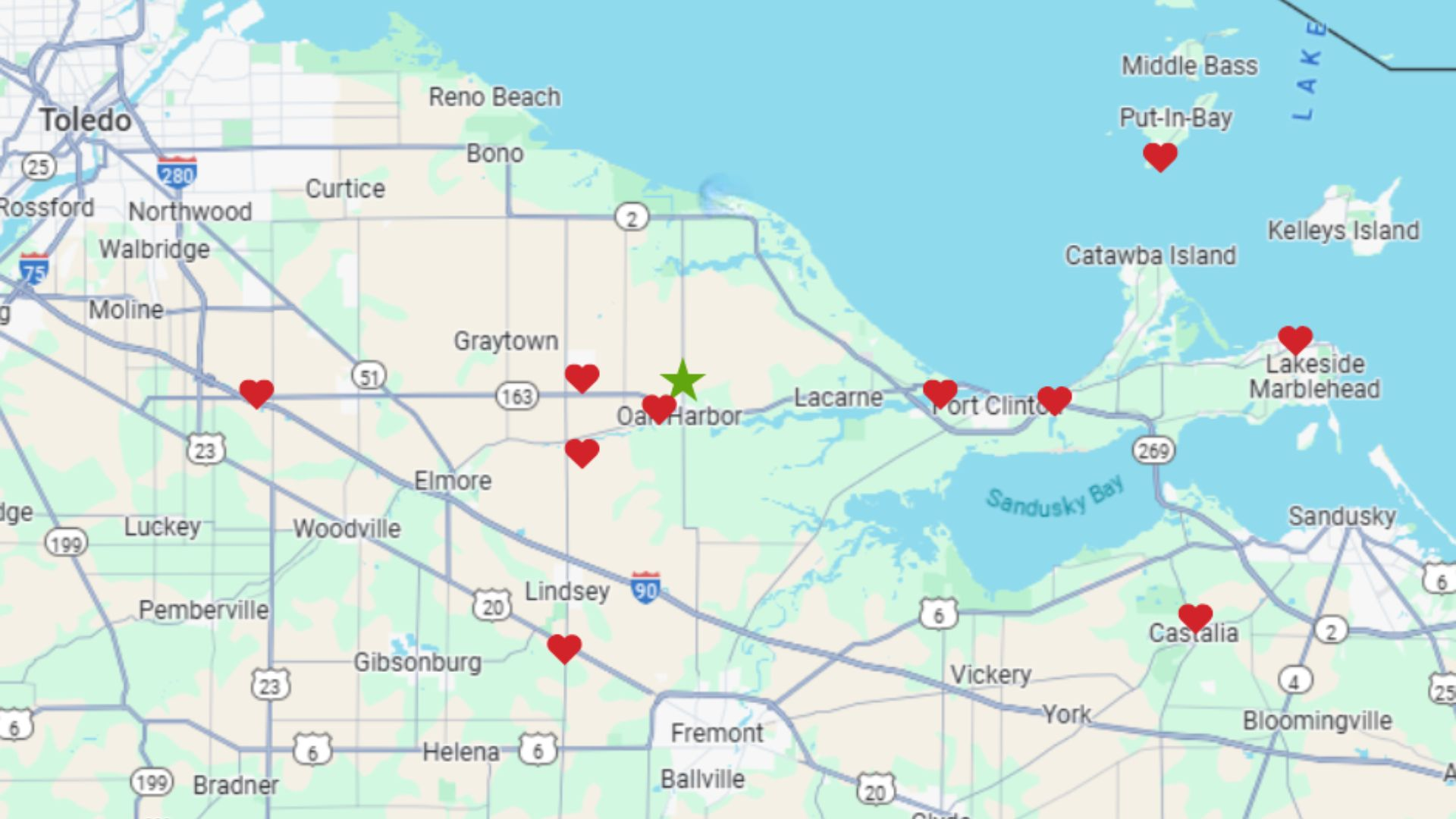
Layering meals with grocery extras helps families bring home even more support.





**ASHLEY
WALTERBUSCH**

**Program Director,
Family Advocacy Center**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**712 N LOCUST ST
OAK HARBOR, OH 43449**

**JOIN US IN PREPARING MEAL BAGS THAT WILL FEED
HUNDREDS OF LOCAL CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.
HELP ONCE, OR ALL SUMMER LONG – EVERY BIT COUNTS!**

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT:
OCFAMILYADVOCACY.ORG/SUMMER-LUNCH
CALL 419-301-0225
SCAN QR CODE**



**PUT ON YOUR CAPE AND JOIN US –
TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGHT
HUNGER!**



Help from the heart.



Summer Lunch

SAMPLE - 2025 Summer Lunch Volunteer Sign Up

AW Ashley Walterbusch **Contact**

Be a Hero This Summer: Help Pack Meal Bags for Local Children!

Location: 712 N Locust St, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

**** Please note, packing will not be at RC Waters Elementary School. ****

Our volunteers are true **superheroes** — and we need more heroes like you! Join us in preparing meal bags that will feed hundreds of local children throughout the summer. Thanks to the incredible support of volunteers last year, over **200,000 meals** were served — and we're ready to do it again!

Help once, or all summer long — every bit counts!

Whether you can give an hour or a whole afternoon, you'll be making a real difference in the lives of children who need it most.

Questions?

Call 419-301-0225
Email awalterbusch@ocfamilyadvocacy.org

Put on your cape and join us — together, we can fight hunger and fuel hope!

Share

Dates shown as mm/dd/yyyy EDT

Date	Available Slot	
05/28/2026 8:30am-10:00am Thursday	Meal Bag Packer 6 of 20 slots filled	Sign Up





Across	Down
1. Peach-like growth on stems	1. Plumes of aspen
2. Central center of a peach	2. A store full of fruit
3. Usually to eat	3. Out piece of a pie
4. Leafy when green; peach-like when ripe	4. Puffy summer fruit
	5. Fruitful when green



Z I O N D P C E E R S S W Y
 J I M E R E E S W Y F E R E J
 E S E T E I P S R E P U Y G
 S Y E T S G O S R E P E G U
 A R I E T E R E E S T A K E R
 Y V Y O D E R E S O M S P E I
 A U S E R D H T S O M M E I
 A I E C O D R E C T E P I T
 I G R E E T I G E S A R E J
 T E S U J O J R E T T R Y T
 E E S O S A E M E W E I P R
 T E E H M M I S T U R S E
 I R E P H R D I T P R A D H
 A U D E E R E S S U R E

THE 1994-1995 SEASON IS THE 10TH YEAR OF THE



Strawberries are members of the rose family. This fruit is likely to have originated in Europe but has been cultivated in the United States since its arrival in the 19th century. Strawberries are sweet and juicy fruits loaded with Vitamin C. Vitamin C fights cell damage, helps to heal wounds and cuts, and plays an integral part in the immune system.



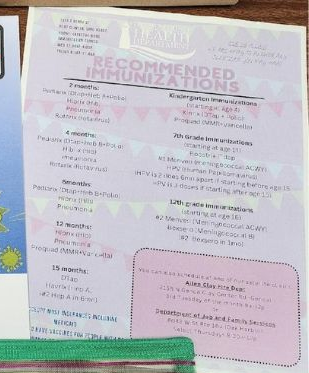
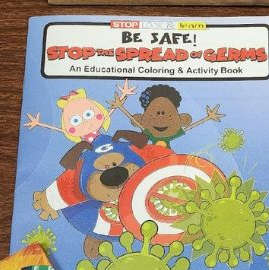
Peaches are a sweet and juicy fruit that boasts a variety of vitamins and minerals. Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and Potassium are key nutrients found in peaches. Peaches are a type of stone fruit. Stone fruits, or drupes, have soft flesh and are characterized by a hard pit in the center. Peaches are to have likely originated in China but have grown in the United States since their arrival in the 17th century. Peaches are also grown here in Ohio.



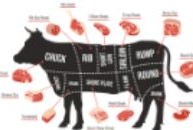
Cucumbers are cool and crisp vegetables that are easily incorporated into a variety of dishes. Cucumbers are made of 95% water and therefore make the perfect snack on a hot summer day. In addition to its ability to improve hydration, this vegetable contains key nutrients like fiber and Vitamin K to support health. Cucumbers come from the Cucurbitaceae family, the same plant family that pumpkin, squash, and melon come from. The cucumber plant is likely to have originated in South Asia and spread to the Americas. Technically, cucumbers are botanically labeled as fruits because they grow from flowers and contain seeds. However, they are classified as vegetables in child nutrition programs and in the culinary realm.



The dairy food group includes milk, yogurt, cheese, lactose-free milk, and fortified soy milk and yogurt. Foods made of milk that are high in fat and contain very little calcium are not considered part of the dairy group. Dairy foods provide a variety of nutrients, most notably Calcium and Vitamin D. These nutrients are essential to maintain strong bones and teeth. The recommended daily serving size of dairy products is based on the age and life stage of the child. One



Beef is an excellent source of protein and provides a variety of essential vitamins and minerals. Protein plays an important role in the development and repair of muscles and organs.



Did you know? It takes about 10 pounds of milk to make 1 pound of cheese!

A single cow can drink up to 50 gallons of water a day.

A single cow can drink up to 30 gallons of water a day.

There are over 1,500 types of cheese in the world.

Studies show cows can have best friends and get stressed when they're apart.

Milk has calcium, which helps build strong bones and teeth.



Spot 5 Difference:



Center
helps from the heart

BONUS HACK #3

Numbered households: Faster, simpler pick-up.

Helps families with multiple kids or different last names grab meals quickly.



BONUS HACK #4

Keep it cool: Freezers on vans + solar-powered refrigeration.

Ensures meals stay safe and fresh, even in outdoor or remote locations.





**KARLA
BOUDREAUX
HORTON**

MS, RD, LDN, SNS

**Child Nutrition
Supervisor, Bossier
Parish School Board**

Bossier Meal Box Squad Stats

Bossier Parish - North Louisiana

839 sq. miles

Pop. 130,000

33 schools

22,000 students



NC “Drive Thru” Model

4 rural sites

7:00-11:00 1 day/wk for 8 wks

7 day meal boxes

3 day meal bags (congregate SS kids)

>33,000 boxes & ~250 bags = ~470,000 meals



BID: Optimum Foods - delivered pallets on site, helped distribute, then took remaining inventory



Google Registration → Scan Code Generated



- Google form registration QR code advertised everywhere
- Mass text message to all BPSB parents
- Social media & news promotions



BPSB Summer Meal Box Registration Form 2025

The Child Nutrition Program is proud to announce that we will be offering 7 day shelf stable meal boxes for pickup at 4 sites throughout the entire summer. Each box will contain 7 breakfasts & 7 lunches including milk. All items are shelf stable & nutritious.

Here's what you need to know:

Who can get a meal box?: Any child age 18 or under. *Note: Students enrolled in summer school will receive a 3 day meal box in June.*

Where: 4 pick up sites: Benton Middle, W.T. Lewis Elementary, Princeton Elementary and Parkway High

When: Every Tuesday from 6/3 - 6/24 and 7/8 - 7/29 from 7:00 - 11:00 in the car or bus line (look for signs).

How: Complete this registration form for **each** child that will be receiving a meal box. You only need to fill out one form for the entire summer, but each child needs a separate form.

Is there a cost? No. This Summer Food Service Program is free.

After you register, you will receive a scan code via email for each child. **You will need to bring a scan code for each child to check in. It can be a print out or electronic on your phone.**

Does my child have to be present? If your child is not present at time of pick up, you will need to fill out a parent pick up form. Please print this form, fill it out and present it at check in. Click here for the form:

[Parent Pick Up Form](#)

Can someone else pick up my boxes for me? YES. As long as they have your scan code AND your completed parent pick up form.

Questions? Call the Child Nutrition office @ 318-549-5046.

BPSB is an equal opportunity provider.

Open Registration:

Only once
Up to 5 kids per form

Sections:

Parent name, child's name, DOB, address, choose distribution dates & locations

**** Indicate if child attending congregated summer school in June**

Confirm & Submit:

Parents/guardians certify all info is correct & submit

Parent Pick Up Form Link - for when child not present

Scancodes = Efficiency & Integrity

Google form spreadsheet programed to create a unique scan code for each child

Scan form automatically emailed
Parents print scan sheet & bring to pick up

On site: each code scanned into live spreadsheet
Red alert if duplicate pickup
Blue alert if a SS child needs 3 day bag



2025 Princeton Scans

2025 BMS Scans

Weekly Summaries: July 15 2025 Pick Up Data



Requested by: yvone taylor

Email: yvonetaylor50@gmail.com



Thank you for registering for our summer meal boxes. Each child registered has been assigned a barcode. Please print the barcode document and bring it to your pick up site each week. If you are picking up boxes for someone else, you will need the barcodes for those children, too.

If the children are not present when picking up a meal box or you are picking up someone else's meal boxes, a parent pick-up form will be required. A copy of the parent pickup form can be found at this link: [Parent Pick Up Form Link](#)

Having a printed copy of your barcodes and completed parent pick up forms, when necessary, will assure lines flow smoothly and allow us to give out as many boxes as we can!

If you have any questions, please email us at childnutrition@bossierschools.org or call our central office at 549-5046. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesdays!

Barcode Scan

Karter Taylor Summer School: No	 2 5 0 4 7 0 6 0 1
Kaysen Taylor Summer School: No	 2 5 0 4 7 0 6 0 2
Summer School:	<div>Example Scan Form</div>
Summer School:	
Summer School:	



Scancodes = Efficiency & Integrity

3 way reconciliation: should all match

1. Starting - ending inventory = inventory used
2. Scan code sheets & physical copies of scan sheets
3. Tally sheets

At all 4 sites over the 8 weeks = 0.003 % variance rate!

Integrity audits are easy with electronic data

AR APPROVED
NO findings!



Roll over image to zoom in

Wireless Barcode Scanner 1D QR Scanner
Wireless Handheld Laser Bar Code Reader 3-in-1 with Bluetooth & 2.4G Wireless & USB Wired Works with iPad, Android Phone, iPhone, Laptop-U26

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100+ bought in past month

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May be available at a lower price from other sellers, potentially without free Prime shipping.

Color: Black-U26



Compatible Devices Smartphone/Desktop/Laptop

Power Source Battery Powered

Brand JAN BOLAND

Connectivity Bluetooth,USB,Wireless

Technology
Number of 1 Lithium ion batteries required. (Included)



Hacks & Contact Info

Staffing: Teamwork makes the dream work!

Central Office staff at each site

Site managers

Employees

Volunteers

“Freezie Pops” to keep cool - every 45-60 min

Gatorade & water available

AC Buses for breaks

Reusable signs

Emergency plan: EMS & Sheriff

Karla Boudreaux Horton, MS, RD, LDN, SNS

karla.horton@bossierschools.org

(O) 318-549-5047 (C) 318-288-1101



BONUS HACK #5

Expand reach: Serve neighboring counties with gaps to reach more kids.

Support neighboring counties that lack capacity—expand service, expand impact.



BONUS HACK #6

Make it an event: Turn meal pick-up into a community celebration!

Local produce, partner resources, and family-friendly activities make summer meals an experience.



WHAT
QUESTIONS DO
YOU HAVE?



Activity: Reflection and Future Check-in

Instructions:

Take a few moments to write **one action step** you will take to address a barrier in your community. Note this in the last section of the Rural Hacks worksheet.

Fold your paper, seal it in your envelope, and write: “Open April 2026”.

Open it in a few months and ask yourself: **Did I put this new idea into practice in my RNC planning?**



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