

Aurora SFSP Lunch Bunch Update

Maile Ilac-Boeder <executivedirector@tlcaurora.org>

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To:Maile Ilac-Boeder <executivedirector@tlcaurora.org>

Good afternoon Aurora Lunch Bunch Crew!

The Leadership Center team is so excited for our 8th summer of healthy food and community at the trailhead. Unfortunately, this summer must look a little different. This summer, **only children who qualify for free and reduced lunches in Aurora Public School District AND who pre-register prior to attending and sign in each day will qualify for the program** and the meals must be to-go.

For a community to qualify for a Summer Food Service Program per USDA guidelines, at least half of the children must come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level ([info here](#)). Over the past 3 years, Aurora has ridden the line of eligibility and COVID-19 guidelines have expired, which has been why requirements about to-go meals, sign-in sheets, etc. have changed each year. This year, Aurora will not qualify because the average community income is too high and we do not have a qualifying census block in city limits that allows us to serve. The USDA has also informed us that we are not allowed to provide enrichment activities during lunch time either because of the "to-go" status.

We are extremely saddened by this news, but we are committed to the Aurora Lunch Bunch and have found a way to continue to provide community!

On **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**, our team will be at the PPRI trailhead from 11:30-12:00 p.m. to serve to-go meals to children have signed up and who qualify. On Tuesdays, the to-go meals will include both a meal for Tuesday and for Wednesday.

On Wednesdays, The Leadership Center will serve ANYONE and preferably EVERYONE a healthy snack with planned games, activities, and occasionally our high school leadership groups (aka the "big kids") from 11:30-12:30. As of 05/24, these snacks will be funded 100% by The Leadership Center and we are actively seeking local sponsors to help fund these snacks for the program to continue. Our goal is to find enough sponsors to increase Lunch Bunch from once per week to two or more times per week, but this will rely on sponsors and validation of the importance of this program by community members. If our Lunch Bunch program has impacted you and your family positively, we encourage you to submit a comment in this form that we will share with our potential sponsors.

[SFSP Lunch Bunch Impact Form](#)

We recognize this is disappointing being so close to our start date and we are happy to answer any questions that arise. For more information, we have listed some FAQs on our website or contact Maile at 402-694-3934.

While we have your attention, we would also like to introduce you to a few new friendly faces that your children may get to interact with at Lunch Bunch! Samuel Kibunga is a Nebraska Wesleyan student who is serving as our Lunch Bunch Director Intern and will be planning all of the fun activities each week. He taught elementary in the Republic of the Congo for 3 years and is now working towards a degree and a career working with youth. You may also see our other summer interns, Emily, Rebecca, Michelle, and Kylee, this summer too! Pay attention to our socials for their introductions!

Sincerely,

The Leadership Center Team

Important Links

[Instagram page](#)

[Facebook Page](#)

[SFSP Lunch Bunch Page](#)

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moments
that
matter.