

Sample invitation from Feeding America Member to Summer Food Service Program Site

[Date]

The Honorable [Name]
Unites States Senator or U.S. House of Representatives
[House or Senate Office Building and Room Number]
Washington, DC [Zip]

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

On behalf of [Food Bank name], I would like to invite you to visit our **[Insert Site or Program]** on [day of week], [date], at [time] at [location of event]. The **[Site or Program]** provides critical nutrition for children in the summer months when school is out of session. [Add any information about what makes your program successful, or a specific need addressed in the community].

As you may know, child hunger is a serious issue plaguing our nation. According to the USDA, in Fiscal Year 2009, approximately 19.5 million children each day received a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program. For many of the children receiving these meals, summer is an especially challenging time because they may have limited access to food when schools are out. To help fill this nutritional gap, USDA administers the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which provides low-income children with free, nutritious meals during the summer months. Unfortunately, largely due to a lack of local programs, in FY 2009, 2.2 million children received meals through this program during the summer months. That's why our summer food program is particularly important to our community. We are both helping to raise awareness of child hunger and also working to increase participation in this valuable program.

This is also a particularly important year in which to focus on child hunger, as the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act is being considered by Congress. This key piece of legislation authorizes targeted Federal child nutrition programs, including those that serve meals during school time, as well as those programs that serve meals to children during out-of-school times like after-school and summer. As Congress prepares to reauthorize and strengthen this legislation, there is no better time to visit a **[Food bank or program]** and learn about the important role this and other child feeding sites play in filling the gaps in food service for millions of low-income children across this nation.

Please find attached a scheduling request containing specific details regarding the Summer Food Celebration. **[Name of Person]** from our staff will be contacting your scheduler **[by when?]** to follow up on this request. We thank you for your consideration of this request and hope that you and your staff can join us for this important event.

Sincerely,