



University Park Elementary

Backpacks for Kids Program at UPark

About the Program:

We are excited to inform you about the Backpacks for Kids Program at UPark. Each week throughout the school year, our program volunteers send home bags of nutritious food to UPark students and their families for the weekend. We believe every child should be prepared for an active and healthy lifestyle, full of learning and curiosity. We help with this by providing fresh fruit and bread, healthy meals, and nutritious snacks for UPark children who may not have access to such food on the weekends.

We are grateful to have support from: We Don't Waste, South High Food Bank, The Stigma.org, Oroweat Bakery Outlet, The Bagel Deli, Costco, Target, and more. The UPark PTA also financially supports the program and is always willing to accept donations of time, money, or gift-cards for this life enhancing program.

Additionally, in November 2018, the UPark PTA and Backpacks for Kids Program became a closed agency for The Food Bank of the Rockies. As closed agency, the Backpack for Kids Program can order food from Food Bank of the Rockies each week at a much lower cost. Instead of paying an average of \$1.85 per pound for non-perishable foods at local grocery stores and \$1.40 per pound for produce, we can now get the same quality of non-perishable food at an average of \$.30 per pound. In addition, we are now authorized to get produce from the Food Bank of the Rockies Fresh Food Center for free.

How to Support the Program:

There are many ways to support the program: One way is to give cash, write a check to the UPark PTA with "Backpacks for Kids" in the memo line, or provide a loaded grocery gift-card to Sharon or Alexis in the UPark main office. They will forward your donation to the "Backpacks for Kids" Team.

Another way you can help is if you know of a business, company, store, or organization that might want to support the program, please contact Backpack for Kid's team member, Ellen Landy, by phone or text at: (720) 434-4999 or by e-mail at: landysteward@comcast.net, and she will provide further information.

Also, please be sure to connect your King Soopers rewards card to UPark so that King Soopers will donate a portion of your purchase back to UPark each time you swipe your Sooper Card. Please use these 6 easy steps to register: 1. Go to www.kingsoopers.com 2. Click on "Savings & Rewards" 3. Click on "King Soopers Community Rewards" 4. Click on "Enroll Now" 5. Search for University Park Elementary PTA or use our code, CR174 6. Click "Enroll."

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to Ellen Landy at: (720) 434-4999 or landysteward@comcast.net.

Would your family like to be a recipient of the Program?

Everybody struggles from time to time, but no one should be hungry – especially children. Please don't hesitate to contact our University Park School Psychologist, Alicia Vega, at Alicia_Vega@dpsk12.org, your child's teacher, or Sharon and Alexis in the front office to become a participant of the program.

Also, please don't forget:

Every DPS child is eligible for a free breakfast with their student ID number every school day morning starting at 8:30 AM in the University Park cafeteria.