



# Summer Meals Newsletter

JUNE 2015

**SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE...  
LET'S MAKE HUNGER DISAPPEAR!**

## Summer Site Finder

**The Summer Food Rocks Site Finder is up and running soon!**

FNS relies on State agencies to provide accurate and current information about their Summer sites. Please send a complete list of your sites to [summertechsupport@fns.usda.gov](mailto:summertechsupport@fns.usda.gov) each time you update your site list.

More information can be found in the Site Promotion Tips for States Toolkit Page: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Promotion\\_States.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Promotion_States.pdf).

To access the site finder, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>

## Upcoming Summer Meals Webinars

Continue to share these dates with your sponsors and partners. FNS directs webinar participants to their State agency for assistance, so tune in to see who we are sending your way!

**New to the Program? Ask the USDA!**

Wednesday, June 10th 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

**Returning to the Program? Ask the USDA!**

Wednesday, June 17th 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

**Promotion Strategies & Site Activities**

Thursday, June 25th 2:30pm-3:30pm ET

To register, please visit:

[www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2015-summer-meals-webinars](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2015-summer-meals-webinars)

View previously recorded webinars here:

[www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2015-summer-meals-recorded-webinars](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2015-summer-meals-recorded-webinars)

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## Summer Meals Kick-Off Week: June 1-5

Summer Meal Programs across the country are swinging into action this month. The start of June marks National Summer Meal Kick-Off Week, an occasion that brings sponsors, partners, community leaders, and children together to enjoy fun events promoting Summer Meals.

Kick-Off events are a great opportunity to create excitement around Summer Meals in your State, encourage use of the Site Finder, recruit volunteers, and build trust in local communities.

**Do you have a "Success Story" to share about your Kick-Off?**

FNS wants to hear it! Please send your stories and Kick-Off best practices to your FNS Regional Office.



Check out the *Hosting Events Toolkit Page* for more tips on hosting kick-off and spike events all summer long: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Events.pdf>

## Summer Learning Day is June 19th!

How are Summer sites in your State planning to celebrate? The National Summer Learning Association has ideas to promote year-round learning at Summer Meal sites across the country. Encourage sponsors in your State to:

- Host a Summer Reading Challenge
- Visit a local museum, aquarium, or nature center
- Use counting skills in site activities
- Visit a library
- Encourage kids to keep a summer journal

State agencies can encourage sponsors to post their events to the National Summer Learning Day map. The map can be accessed at:

<http://summerlearningdaymap.org/>

For more ideas, check out the Summer Learning Day webpage: <http://www.summerlearning.org/>



## 2015 FRAC Summer Report

The Food Research and Action Center's annual *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report* is hot off the presses, just in time for Kick-Off Week! A PDF version of the report is available online, along with archived reports dating back to 2004: <http://frac.org/publications-archives/>.

In 2014, Summer Meal participation grew by 7 percent, the largest increase since 1993.

- June 2015 FRAC Report

## Farm to Summer Resources

Local foods and agriculture-based activities at Summer sites can improve the quality and appeal of Summer Meals, address the summer learning and nutrition gap, bolster your Farm to School efforts with year-round programming, and support local and regional food systems all year long. USDA's Farm to Summer team has a number of resources available for States interested in promoting the use of local foods their sponsors:

- USDA Farm to Summer website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-summer>
- **NEW!** USDA Farm to Summer fact sheet: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/Farm\\_to\\_Summer.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/Farm_to_Summer.pdf)
- USDA Guide to Procuring Local Food: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/procuring-local-foods>