

COVINGTON OUTREACH ASSOCIATION
MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE GROCERY SHOPPING PROGRAM

We kindly ask for your consideration of others, and offer these shopping guidelines to ensure the success of our food pantry program:

Plan to arrive at the Troy Meijer store with plenty of time to complete your grocery shopping by the pre-arranged check-out time, usually 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. A text will be sent to you by a COA volunteer between 1:15 and 1:30 to let you know they have arrived at the store and where you may find them. Our volunteers will usually be near the first open checkout line past the self-checkout registers and will be wearing their name tag on a red COA neck strap.

We ask that you calculate or estimate the cost of your groceries as you are shopping in order to stay within the COA budgeted amount. We want to be responsible guests of Meijer and do not want to put back a lot of food that has been taken off the shelf.

If you should happen to exceed the budgeted amount by more than a few dollars, you will be asked to pay for the overage, or your benefit will be reduced the next time you shop. Please help us stay on track of our budget so we can assist every Covington family that reaches out to us. Our volunteers only have so much in Meijer Simply Give cards with them each week and we want to make sure every family is taken care of. Continued disregard for the budget could result in suspension or termination of your enrollment in our Food Assistance Program.

Please remember our Meijer Simply Give gift cards are **FOOD ONLY. NO TAXABLE ITEMS**, please see the list of restricted items on the reserve side. However, baby supplies such as diapers, baby wipes, baby food and baby formula are permitted. Continued disregard for the Food Only-No Taxable Items guideline could result in suspension or termination of your enrollment in our Food Assistance Program.

If you need assistance with shopping or placing your groceries in your vehicle, please bring someone along to help.

Please remember our food assistance program exists to assist in emergency situations and is not intended for continuous use. We ask that each family limit usage to 8 visits per year (one visit per month).

Thank you for being considerate of others!!

The following items or categories are taxable items and are not permitted to be purchased with our Meijer Simply Give gift cards.

No Alcohol or alcohol containing beverages or food items

No Tobacco products

No Personal Care products including but not limited to shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap

No Paper Products including but not limited to toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates

No Cleaning Supplies including but not limited to laundry detergents, Lysol, Clorox

No Kitchen Supplies including but not limited to foil, baggies, plastic wrap

No Pet Supplies including but not limited to pet food, kitty litter, treats, medications and toys

No Soft Drinks including but not limited to Pepsi products, Coke products, 7up Product. No carbonated products.

No Sports Drinks including but not limited to Gatorade, Poweraid, Monster, RipIt, Red Bull

No Hawaiian Punch or individual servings of juice including but not limited to Sunny D and Capri Sun or Clamato juice. Only full family size bottles of Apple, Grape juice and such

No Powdered Flavored Water or water flavoring products including but not limited to Country Time, Kool-Aid or other drink enhancers. No carbonated beverages including waters.

No Artificial Sweeteners including but not limited to Stevia, Splenda, Equal, Sweet-n-Low