

Hosting a Hunt Breakfast

There is nothing more enjoyable than riding in from a day in the hunt field and finding a splendid hunt breakfast prepared. To maintain this as a Woodbrook Hunt Club tradition, every hunting member is required to help host 1-2 breakfasts per season. Taking your turn at hosting the hunt breakfast is an opportunity to share your talent for entertaining and to become better acquainted with other club members.

Members and guests (10 years and older) who attend the hunt breakfast make a donation to the Hound Fund for the purpose of feeding the hounds for the year. Donations can be cash, check, prepaid coupons, or PayPal.

Breakfast teams consist of 4-5 members (major hunt days like the Opening Hunt or Blessing of the Hounds have larger teams). Each team donates all the food and labor to feed 40-50 people (i.e. each crew member provides the equivalent of a full meal for 10 people). The meal usually consists of stirrup cup, appetizers, vegetables, main course, dessert, and beverages. Each team will have a captain to coordinate the date, the theme, the menu, and the workload for the team. The breakfast committee chair can help members switch between breakfast teams if they have a schedule conflict.

Here are some thoughts on how to work effectively as a team. Some crew members have more time than money, while others have more money than time. It is not fair to ask someone who chooses to make their food from scratch to share expenses with someone who chooses to buy everything prepared. Team members should cover the full cost of the items they provide, unless they ask **beforehand** for the group to split that expense. For example saying, “I am happy to go to the store and pickup six rotisserie chickens, but I’ll need the group to share that expense.”

General notes on hosting a breakfast:

- Do not plan on riding when you are on a breakfast team
- Set aside food for the hunt staff who will arrive late to the breakfast
- Set aside the desserts until about half the people attending have been served their main courses so that everyone gets dessert.
- Serve the main courses from the kitchen to make sure everyone gets a portion.
- A team member should record Hound Fund donations. It is efficient for that person to keep the plates and hand them out as people make their donation. They should keep a list of names and note if their donation was cash, check, coupon or PayPal. The donations and that list should be given to the Treasurer, a Master or a Breakfast Committee member.
- Vegetarian and gluten free choices are appreciated.
- Paper goods and cleaning supplies are provided by the club.
- Stirrup cup supplies are stored in the clubhouse cabinet above the microwave
- Do not leave leftovers or recyclables behind - they should be taken home by the breakfast team.