

VFA Cafe

A list of basic food ideas and related items to run the VFA cafe during the Middlebury Open.

bagels (*Brueggers' in Burlington have donated them*) - 4 dozen total for both days

cream cheese in the handy plastic tubs (*Brueggers' has donated this too.*) 4 to 6

any kind of brownie sells

large, individually wrapped cookies (*oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip*) -- cookies sell well

muffins - but not more than a dozen or so (sell better in the morning, with coffee)

coffee area: *coffee, **milk** (qt.), **half+half** (pint for Sat/pint for Sun) **sugar, stirrers**
cocoa mix **teas**

fruit bowl : bananas , apples

sandwiches or wraps (can probably sell about a dozen each day)

soups / chili -- chili is a big hit, can sell a crockpot each day

ice -- start making it? start hoarding it from your ice maker? or buy it that morning?
3 bags for Saturday and 2 bags for Sunday (injured fencers use it too!)

* paper hot cups,

plastic spoons & plastic forks

cheap paper plates,

napkins -- who donates these to non-profits? Hannafords?

wax paper + a box of large zip lock bags (for storing leftovers Sat. night)

To remember to bring:

cutting board/knife -- spreading knives -- ladles/large serving spoons

tablecloths large coolers (at least 3 or 4 - used for storing stuff Sat. night)

extension cord and a power strip (for crockpots + coffee pot)

pens - small writing pad - permanent marker - masking tape

a large piece of paper to make a sign (w/prices) - or make small signs w/ prices

To buy:

bottled waters (about 30-40 should do it)

juice packs: cran/apple and grape (these were a hit: good quality= Apple & Eve)

drinkable yoghurts (not hugely popular but a good item: 2 / 4 packs total)

individual bags: potato chips (about 30 total)

Note: bolded items are bought (and reimbursed from sales)

italicized items are donations solicited from other fencers/ families

* With two weeks notice, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters will donate coffee & cups

Start up: remember to get some quarters (\$30) and one dollar bills (\$20). Then reimburse yourself.

Tips:

Try to price everything 50 cents (fruit, muffins, gorp bags, brownies, etc.) **or** \$1 (bowl of soup, bagel, etc.)

or \$2 (sandwiches / wraps)

Then it keeps the selling, change giving simple.

On Sunday, you can reduce the price of all the now day-old baked goods/ bagels to 25 cents.

With discretion:

A hard working armorer can be offered an item from the table for free.

Also, a friendly gesture is to offer the school janitors a cup of coffee when they come by.

Running a tab:

Some fencing families (especially with multiple fencers) find it easier to write down all their purchases throughout the day and pay at the end of the day. Provide paper and a pen for this. These are some of your best customers!

Some fencers are so generous that they actually made soups, sandwiches, desserts, etc. which they donated to the cafe and then later came by and offered to buy some of their own food item when they were hungry. I chose to not allow people pay for the items that they had donated!

Slash your prices on Sunday to sell everything rather than have leftovers.