

The Perfectly Packed Shoebox Gift

Please bring boxes or donation items to Church by Nov. 5

Our family loves to support the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift Charity every November. A couple of years ago, it came to our attention that despite our best efforts, I probably have been including items in our lovingly packed boxes that are not the best choices for the children receiving them. Therefore, after scouring the web and reading what is suggested by the missionaries that help with distributing these boxes, we have come up with the following suggestions. **Please note that no one box has to include all of these items:**

General items for any age:

- For any age boy, a deflated soccer ball WITH a pump
- A new short-sleeved shirt (with no writing or animals on them) in the largest size for the age group you are filling a box for.
- Small flashlight with batteries
- Melamine or plastic plate, bowl, and/or cup
- School supplies
 - Pencils (regular & colored) WITH a sharpener
 - Erasers
 - Small notebook
- Hygiene items:
 - Soap AND plastic soap dish box
 - Comb
 - Toothbrush WITH plastic case
 - Full size tube of toothpaste with expiration date at least thru Feb. 2018
 - Hand wipes
- Band-aids
- For girls, hair elastics or head bands
- Socks
- For girls, a purse or small bag
- Sun glasses
- A personal letter with photo
- Harmonica or Recorder/flute
- Baseball cap

Additional items for specific age groups

For ages 2-4 & 5-9:

- Marbles, jump ropes
- For boys, non-military toy car, truck, or airplane LARGER THAN A MATCHBOX SIZE that can be rolled in dirt
- For girls, a princess crown
- For girls, baby doll with light brown skin and no hair

For ages 10-14:

- Solid deodorant (in a plastic zip-lock bag)
- Good quality ink pens (black, red, green and blue)
- A simple watch
- Solar calculator
- For girls, travel sewing kit
- For boys, duct tape

Items to NOT PACK:

- Candy or food (it melts and attracts bugs and rodents)
- Stuffed animals (due to fears and superstitions)
- Anything with English instructions
- Any toy that is not universally recognizable (e.g., memory matching games)
- Cards
- Yo-yo's
- Gloves, winter hats
- Play-dough
- Stickers and temporary tattoos
- Cheap or fragile items—no McDonald-type toys
- Liquids and aerosols

