Incorporate Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing into a class or schoolwide project. This event can consist of a school-sponsored packing party and/or a collection of individually packed shoeboxes.

**OVERVIEW**

*What is Operation Christmas Child?*

Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Every shoebox gift is a resource for evangelism and discipleship, which leads to the multiplication of new believers and churches around the world.

You can be a part of what God is doing in these communities through Operation Christmas Child. Individuals, youth groups, student organizations, Christian schools, and homeschoolers all can get involved in this life-changing effort.

*What are the benefits for student groups to participate in Operation Christmas Child?*

- Partner with Operation Christmas Child to share the Gospel around the world.
- Use this project to engage students outside or new to your group as well as regular attenders.
- Integrate faith and learning through personal experiences and group activities.
- Create and facilitate leadership development opportunities.
- Increase awareness about the global need for the Gospel.
- Foster partnerships within your community.

**Promotional Suggestions and Resources**

- Show Operation Christmas Child videos during general assemblies.
- Share spiritual impact stories your student media network and publications.
- Social Media:
  - Follow Operation Christmas Child on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
  - Share posts and videos on the school’s or student group’s social media pages.
- Order promotional materials, many of which are free of charge.
- Download our “Why $9?” resources to explain that every shoebox gift needs a $9 donation for collecting, processing, shipping, ministry partner training, and Gospel materials. We have fundraising tips to help you collect donations, as well as a webpage to help you create your own fundraising page and chart your group’s progress toward a goal.
- Find additional resources and ideas at samaritanspurse.org/occ-students.

**Spiritual Development**

- **Bible Research:** Enlist students to identify Bible verses related to various aspects of the project, such as missions, evangelism, compassion, generosity, and stewardship. Incorporate these verses into your project promotion.
- **Prayer:** Encourage participants to pray for each step of the process: gathering empty boxes to fill, collecting items, packing shoeboxes, and preparing the finished boxes for drop off.
ACADEMIC LIFE SKILLS

- **Leadership and Responsibility**: Give students leadership responsibilities in the project.
- **Research and Cooperation**: Involve students in deciding on the event theme and in developing the shoebox goal.
- **Community Relations**: Ask local businesses for shoebox item donations.
- **Presentation skills**: Develop presentations to give in classes, at assemblies, and to school clubs and organizations.
- **Organization**: Task classes with collecting shoebox items based on age groups (2-4, 5-9, and 10-14).
- **Public Speaking and Writing**: Ask students to write and give promotional announcements about the project.
- **Inventory**: Task students with tallying the quantities of items donated or shoeboxes collected.
- **Problem Solving**: Host a debrief meeting to evaluate successes and document ways to improve the project next year.
- **Technology**: Use multi-media presentations, record keeping, and promotions.
- **Supply Chain**: Guide students to chart the project from acquisition of resources to delivery of goods.

PRE-EVENT

- Encourage group participation (Administration, Alumni, Athletics, Faculty/Staff, International Students, Student Government, etc.).
- Set up a meeting with all parties involved and form a plan for the events.
- Lead the team to prayerfully set a shoebox goal.
- Reserve a location(s) where the events will be hosted.
- Share your vision for the events. Show inspirational videos about the impact of a gift-filled shoebox.
- Establish a process to collect shoebox items and raise money for shipping and other project costs. Remember, your only limitation is how many shoeboxes and how many items you have to put in those shoeboxes. Plan accordingly.
- Collect standard-size shoeboxes or order Operation Christmas Child preprinted shoeboxes.
- Print or order labels to affix to each shoebox.
- Invite a local artist or worship band to play Christmas carols or arrange for music to play during the events.
- Locate your nearest shoebox drop-off location and determine transportation for collected shoeboxes.

WEEK OF THE EVENT

**Monday and Tuesday**: Set up a shoebox central station where students can get free brochures on how to pack a shoebox, receive shoeboxes to fill, and donate their filled shoeboxes. Shoebox costumes are available to order as a fun way to promote the events. You could even host a shoebox costume dance-off competition. If using preprinted shoeboxes, enlist volunteers to fold them, add a brochure, and distribute on campus.

**Wednesday**: Host a packing party for students, classes, and groups. Serve Christmas-themed snacks and play fun music.

**Friday**: Celebrate! Continue the Christmas theme with food and music. Share inspirational videos and pray for recipients. Host a shoebox send-off celebration where the group prays over the assembled shoeboxes.

POST-EVENT

- Transport shoeboxes to a nearby drop-off location.