



# CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EVENT GUIDE

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 [samaritanaspurse.org/occ-students](http://samaritanaspurse.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.



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## 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](#).