



“And the light shines in the darkness ...” —John 1:5



Packing Special Access Shoebox Gifts for Hard-to-Reach Areas

In many hard-to-reach nations, Christians are willing to make great sacrifices to share about Jesus Christ.

Shoebox gifts can become a powerful tool for these believers to share God's love when they are packed with extra care. By adhering to strict customs and cultural guidelines, preparing Special Access shoeboxes helps to ensure the safety of children who receive them as well as the ministry partners who distribute them. As we minimize potential risks by what we pack in these boxes, the gifts open doors for local evangelism, discipleship, and the multiplication of believers in areas traditionally closed to the Gospel! Please review the information below and be sure to pack each shoebox full with fun items from Operation Christmas Child's suggested packing list.

ONLY PACK ITEMS FROM OUR LIST

Select items from the wide variety listed on the back. Want to send something else? Pack it in a traditional shoebox instead.

We need both!

AVOID LOGOS

Be sure to pack your gift in a box that does not have any symbols or logos (including Operation Christmas Child) on it.

DO NOT INCLUDE LETTERS AND PHOTOS

Personalize the boxes by praying for them instead! They will be delivered with the message of God's love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



DESIRED ITEMS

FUN – Be sure to include a “wow” item such as a soccer ball (with pump), doll, or larger plush animal that the child will see when he or she first opens the box. Ideas of other fun items include:

- Bead or other new craft kits
- Balls
- Costume jewelry, sunglasses, small purse, hat, hair bows/clips, tiara
- Dolls (with no removable clothing)
- Fidget toys
- Flashlights
- Jump rope, Slinky®, Etch A Sketch®, marbles, Legos®, or other games
- Musical toys
- Plastic animals
- Plush animals
- Toy vehicles
- Stickers

FULL – Pack the box tight with other items so there is no empty space inside. Ideas include:

- Personal Care Items: brushes, combs, shoes/sandals, socks, toothbrushes in original packaging, T-shirts (non-branded), undergarments, water bottles, washcloths
- School Supplies: calculator, chalk, colorful pens, crayons, drawstring bag, erasers, notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil pouch, sharpeners, small backpack



RESTRICTED ITEMS

- Aerosol cans
- Anything politically, socially, or economically sensitive
- Barbie® dolls or dolls with removable clothing
- Breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers
- Camouflage clothing (but camouflage toys and school items are OK)
- Chocolate, candy, or food
- Coloring books with Christian themes
- Flags of any type
- Liquids
- Medications or vitamins (no medicine bottles)
- Personal letters
- Pigs (toys or books/coloring books with pigs)
- Playing cards (no poker cards, but UNO or Go Fish cards are OK)
- Rainbow-colored items
- Religious symbols and literature
- Scary characters/figurines/monsters
- Sharp items (fishing and sewing kits, knives, nails, scissors, screws, tools)
- Soap, deodorant, lotions, or lip balm
- Toothpaste
- Used, damaged, or homemade items
- War-related items such as toy guns or knives, military figurines, binoculars, compasses, walkie-talkies



Be sure to include a \$10 donation per shoebox to cover collection, processing, shipping, Gospel materials, training local churches, and other ministry costs. Make your donation online at **samaritanspurse.org/special-access-donation**

Most importantly, pray for the children who will receive your gifts!

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