

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox FAQs

What is Operation Christmas Child? A project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies, as a means of reaching out to children with the Good News of Jesus Christ. These simple gifts are shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and/or disease; as well as children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Who is Samaritan's Purse? A non-denominational evangelical Christian organization, providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world, with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse is currently led by Franklin Graham.

Why shoebox gifts? They are a way to demonstrate God's love, in a tangible way, to needy children around the world, and together with local churches worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

How do I pack a shoebox? Decide whether you will pack a box for a girl or a boy, as well as the age category: 2–4, 5–9, or 10–14. Select a “wow” item such as a doll, deflated soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal....then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. You can include a personal note and photo. Please provide the recommended \$10 (*per box*) donation to help cover processing, shipping, & Gospel materials. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift!

Is there anything that I shouldn't include in my shoebox? Please do NOT include the following items....Used items or damaged items; Candy, gum, chocolate, fruit roll snacks, gummy snacks, drink mixes, seasoning packets, or any other type of food; War-related items (*ex. toy guns & knives, military figures, camo clothing*); Toothpaste; Liquids, lotions, & gels (*ex. lip gloss, nail polish, hand sanitizer, perfume, ointment, liquid glue, liquid paint, balls with gel filling*); Medications or vitamins; Breakable items (*ex. snow globes, mirrors, glass containers, figurines*); Pocketknives, saws, razors, or multi-use tools with blades; Seeds; Perishable items; Aerosol cans; Matches or other fire starters; Real nature items (*ex. sand, rocks, leaves, or shells collected from nature*); Money (*real or play*); Homemade play-dough; Homemade maracas or bean bags that contain non-synthetic filler (*ex. rice, beans, rocks, aquarium gravel, or wood pellets*).

What is the \$10 suggested donation per box? This donation is critical for Samaritan's Purse to collect, process, and ship shoebox gifts to more than 100 countries. It also provides for ministry materials, such as The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklet and The Ministry Partner Guide. If you are packing multiple boxes, you may combine all of your donations into one payment. **You can pay with debit or credit card (via the QR code on your box label or at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/label-options/>) or by check or money order (payable to Samaritan's Purse and mailed in the postage-paid envelope that is attached to the label brochure).** Cash is not recommended. However, if that is your only option, you may put it in the brochure envelope, then place the envelope inside the shoebox, on top of the gifts.

What happens after my shoebox gift is delivered? Local ministry partners distribute the shoeboxes to children in their communities, along with booklets that share the Gospel in the recipients' native language. The local ministry partners are able to establish relationships with the children and their families.

Can I find out where my shoebox is sent? Yes! Attach one of the QR code adhesive shoebox labels and make the \$10 donation (*per box*) online to activate the label. (*If you don't have a pre-printed adhesive label, you can still pay online, then print & attach a unique barcoded label to your shoebox gift.*) You will receive an email with a link to the online Look-Up Tool, to discover the destination country of your box. Shoebox information will display in the look-up tool once shoeboxes have been processed.

(see other side for a list of suggested gift ideas)