

## Typical FAQ's for hosting the OCC table

### How long do I have to turn in my box?

All boxes are due Nov 6-20, but can be turned in anytime at this table or in the OCC donation box locations in this lobby and the children's lobby.

### Do I have to put a check or cash for the shipping in each box?

No, just put a check in one box for all the boxes you donated. For example, if you made 10 boxes, place a check in the envelope in one box for \$70.

Please make Checks to **Samaritan's Purse** and add **OCC** in the Memo.

### Can I pay online for the shipping? How can I know where my box goes?

If you choose to pay for the shipping online, go to the Follow My Box link on our website or <https://www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/>. There you will be able to make your donation online and also receive labels for your boxes that include barcodes. As the boxes leave the processing centers, the code is scanned with the destination country. You then receive an email with your box's destination, including information about that country.

### Can I just make a donation toward items or shipping?

Absolutely! Please place your donation in an envelope and place it in our donation box on the table, give it to someone at the Information desk, or place it in the offering designated as OCC.

### What do I do with the boxes?

Many families like to fill the boxes at home with family and friends. Others are unsure what it means to fill a box. TLC gives you 2 ways to participate! You can take some boxes to fill with family, friends, coworkers, civic groups, etc., or you can come to our Packing Day on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Imagine the gym lined up with tables of items to put in the boxes...all you have to do is fill up a box.

### What items are needed for the boxes?

For the Packing party, TLC purchases many needed items. However, we can always use the following **new** items: pencils, notebook paper, small toys, balls, kid's meal toys, jump ropes, hair bands, dolls, small blankets; see [occ.tlcalive.com](http://occ.tlcalive.com) link to Samaritan's Purse website for more ideas.

### 'Can This Go in My Shoebox?' FAQ:

#### Are playing cards allowed?

Yes! Playing cards can be included in your shoebox gifts.

#### How about little toys like spiders, bugs, snakes, etc.?

All of those items are allowed.

#### Can we include batteries?

Yes. However, if the batteries are loose, both ends must be covered with tape.

**Can we include paint sets or glue bottles?**

No, both of these items are liquids and can't be included in your shoebox gifts. However, dry paint sets (such as watercolors) or glue sticks are OK to pack!

**Can we include a toolkit with nails, screws, screwdrivers, and hammers?**

Yes! The only tools that can't be included are saws or pocketknives.

**Are scissors OK?**

Yes! Scissors are OK to include in your shoebox gifts.

**Can items with camouflage be included?**

If the child can wear or use the items without looking like a soldier, they are OK to include in your shoebox gift. Pink or colored camouflage is safe as are pencils, wallets, or socks.

**Are squirt guns allowed?**

Yes, Squirt guns can be included as long as they do not look like real guns. Brightly colored squirt guns are great to pack in your shoebox gift.

**Can glow sticks go in a shoebox gift?**

Yes, glow sticks are OK to pack in your gift. If the tube breaks, the liquid does not spill out and can't damage other items.

**Can we include wet wipes?**

Yes, wet wipes do not have enough liquid to spill out into the shoebox so they are OK to include in your gift.

**Can rubber balls be included if they have liquid glitter inside?**

No, these would be considered inappropriate because of the liquid.

**What type of candy is allowed in shoebox gifts?**

During 2016 collection, appropriate candy includes hard candy, candy corn, gummy bears, caramels, taffy, gum and Tootsie Rolls. For all of these, make sure that the expiration date is at least six months after National Collection Week. You may not include Hershey Kisses, Snickers bars, or any other chocolate, fruit roll-ups, fruit snacks, or drink mixes such as Kool-Aid. Starting in 2017, no type of candy at all will be allowed in shoebox gifts, due to increasing customs regulations. Please email us at [occinfo@samaritan.org](mailto:occinfo@samaritan.org) if you have any questions.

**Is lip gloss OK to pack in a shoebox gift?**

Lip gloss is a liquid and can't be included. However, Chapstick, lip balm or lipstick can go!

**Can I include toothpaste in my shoebox?**

During 2016 collection, toothpaste is allowed in shoebox gifts as long as the expiration date is at

least six months after National Collection Week. Starting in 2017, toothpaste will not be allowed in shoebox gifts, due to increasing customs regulations.

**Is Play-Doh OK to pack in a shoebox gift?**

Yes, Play-Doh can be included in your shoebox gift. However, some children might think it is edible.

**Can compact mirrors go in a shoebox gift?**

Yes. Compact mirrors can be included because if the glass shatters, it will be contained.