



RECOMMENDED BACKPACK PACKING LISTS

 **MISSION GEORGIA**

MAKE A SMALL INVESTMENT THAT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

HYBRID BACKPACKS

Hybrid backpacks are designed to meet almost any need for any child in any situation...foster care, literacy, refugee, trafficking victim, etc. This list is a basic bag for any packing ministry.

- 2 reading books (elementary, middle school, or high school)
- Devotional book (age-appropriate)
- White, gray or black ankle socks (kids, youth or adult sizes to correspond with ages)
- Journal or coloring book
- Pens and pencils
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Plastic water bottle

Properly label bags Girl/Guy S, M, L, XL

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

The beginning of the school year opens all kinds of opportunities to serve your community. At the top of the list is the need for students and families who cannot afford the supplies they need to thrive in the classroom. The goal with back-to-school backpacks is not to provide every need that is on the school's supply list (every school and every grade are usually different). Allow these backpacks to meet a need and open the doors for future connections with school administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and children.

Here are a few common needs:

- Notebook paper (college and wide-ruled)
- Packaged pens & pencils
- Composition notebook(s)
- Pencil pouch
- 3-5 Pocket folders
- Glue sticks
- Crayons and/or colored pencils

PREGNANCY

Partnering with a local pregnancy resource center is an excellent bridge to meeting the practical needs of expectant mothers in challenging circumstances. Serving them in their time of uncertainty provides comfort and encouragement while they experience the love of Christ and see the miracle of God's handiwork during their pregnancies. Providing these items is a great start:

- Water bottle
- Kleenex
- Hard candy, gum, or mints
- Fragrant soap and lotion
- Lip gloss
- Small makeup bag
- Comfy socks
- Devotional book

LITERACY

Statistics tell us that that nearly half of elementary-aged children struggle with reading. Unfortunately, reversing the trend is multifaceted, but it creates an incredible chance for the church to invest in children and families and to make a life-changing difference. Creating backpacks that encourage reading and build relationships is a life-changing investment. Start with a few items like these:

- 3 books (K-2nd, 3rd-5th)
- Coloring book
- Crayons
- Small toy or card game
- Packaged pens & pencils
- Crayons and/or colored pencils
- Bookmarks
- Kids devotional or Bible story book (*check with school about policy*)



FOSTER CARE

Children in foster care often experience many unknowns. Their circumstances are unsettled and their comforts are limited. Your generosity in their time of need can literally change their hearts at a time when they are most vulnerable. Having backpacks ready in times of urgent need is a ministry needed in every community.

Preschool

- Socks
- Underwear
- Play outfit
- Bible story book
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Body wash
- Blanket
- Small, Preschool toy

Children

- Pajamas
- Socks
- Underwear
- Casual Outfit
- Bible
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Bible story book
- Coloring book and crayons

Properly tag these bags with a tag referring to age (baby, toddler, 2-5, etc.) and gender

ADULT REFUGEES

- Umbrella
- Flip flops (any size)
- Reusable grocery bags
- Small notebook
- Pens & pencils
- Gum
- Body wash

Designate bags by gender and shirt size

CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

For each NEW zippered backpack, please include:

Always include a copy of the Christmas Story.

Securely tie 2 ribbons to the backpack to indicate gender and age of recipient.

Gender	Age
Blue = Boy	Purple = Ages 2-3
Pink = Girl	Yellow = Ages 4-7
	Green = Ages 8-10
	Red = Ages 11-14
	White = Ages 15-17

Example: Girl, age 6

1 pink ribbon, 1 yellow ribbon securely tied to the backpack

TOYS: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazooos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries) , Slinky®, Frisbee, card games such as Ol' Maid, Go Fish, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (boxed and in a plastic bag), shampoo (securely sealed & in a plastic bag) hairbrush, comb, pony tail holders, barrettes, hair clips, washcloth, etc.

OTHER: Children's or Teen Bible (KJV, God's Word, or CSB version), age-appropriate Christian books, sunglasses, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), blankets, water bottles, socks

FOOD: Canned food items with pop-tops (nothing which requires a can opener and no plastic containers), fruit cups, protein bars, hard candy (NO chocolate) and lollipops, mints, gum, (NO food items with peanut butter or nuts)

CLOTHING: All clothing items should be new with tags/packaging: T-shirts, underwear, socks, warm hat, gloves, scarf, ball cap, fleece pullover, warm outerwear

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: School supplies are welcome, but not all sites need school supplies. If you are partnering with a site, please check with them regarding school supplies and what type of school supplies are needed, please use age-appropriate school supplies.

Additional ideas to consider for older kids (11-17):

GIRLS: lip gloss, costume jewelry, scarves, friendship bracelets, craft kits, journals, fun socks & slippers, doodle books, Spirograph kit, feminine hygiene supplies

BOYS: LEGOS®, card games, hand-held electronic games, flashlights (with extra batteries), basketball, soccer ball, NERF™ football

Please do not include perishable foods or anything that could be considered dangerous.