Operation Christmas Child 2026: Packing Checklist and Collection Week

National Collection Week Nov. 16-23, 2026: what to pack and what to leave out

Monday

November 16, 2026

National Collection Week opens

Facts

- Collection week ends Monday, Nov. 23, 2026.
- The $10 per shoebox is a suggested donation.

BEFORE YOU GO

- [ ] Find a drop-off location by city or ZIP code
- [ ] Call or check the location for its hours
- [ ] Pick one wow item
- [ ] Add personal care, school and craft items
- [ ] Give the $10 online for a Follow Your Box label
- [ ] Drop off by Monday, Nov. 23

OFFICIAL GIFT IDEAS

- [ ] Doll, soccer ball or stuffed animal
- [ ] Combs, toothbrushes, washcloths
- [ ] Pencils, pens, notebooks, rulers
- [ ] Hats, shoes, cold-weather items
- [ ] Puzzles, coloring books, stickers
- [ ] Balls, building blocks, yo-yos

LEAVE THESE OUT

- [ ] Soap and toothpaste
- [ ] Food, candy or gum
- [ ] Liquids and medication
- [ ] Money
- [ ] Used or damaged items
- [ ] Breakable items
- [ ] Scary or war-related items
- [ ] Knife, saw or razor blades

Drop-off location, hours and who the box is for

Source: Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child (National Collection Week, questions, drop-off finder and Official Shoebox Gift Suggestions pages).