



Appalachian Christmas Outreach

Appalachian Coalfields Ministry, sponsored by NC Baptists on Mission, seeks to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs at Christmastime. We are calling on churches statewide to respond to this need through Appalachian Christmas Outreach in 2019.

GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect 16,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in December of 2019. The state-wide collection day for 2019 is Saturday, November 2 from 9am to 3 pm. Twenty-five to thirty collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks. We encourage churches to begin collecting and filling the packs early – and throughout the year.

AGE GROUPING and LABELING:

Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl, as well as the appropriate age.

New for 2019:

Age groupings for this year are 4-7, 8-10, 11-14, and 15-17.

Due to labels falling off in previous years, we now use a ribbon system for labeling the backpacks:

A **royal blue** (or similar) ribbon indicates a boy's backpack.

A **pink** ribbon indicates a girl's backpack.

In addition:

A **yellow** ribbon will indicate a backpack is for ages 4-7

A **green** ribbon will indicate a backpack is for ages 8-10

A **red** ribbon will indicate a backpack is for ages 11-14

A **white** ribbon will indicate a backpack is for ages 15-17.

ITEMS TO COLLECT

Each zippered school backpack should include:

- 1) Two to three items of NEW clothing such as winter hats, gloves, socks, scarf, etc.
- 2) Small pop-top canned food such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, fruit (3-4 cans)
- 3) At least one NEW, age appropriate non-breakable toy. Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, yo-yos, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other (no toy weapons, please!) For older youth category, substitute appropriate item for toy. (See website for suggestions).
- 4) Hygiene items. Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush/comb, shampoo, deodorant (please fit items into a one gallon Ziploc bag so they will not leak).
- 5) Fresh, wrapped candy (no chocolate please, as it may melt – and no peanut products please due to allergies)
- 6) A children's or youth Bible - **TO BE PROVIDED BY FBC**
- 7) A copy of "The Christmas Story" - **TO BE PROVIDED BY FBC**

**Share a gift of LOVE and the GOSPEL MESSAGE
with a child in need this Christmas!**

**Deadline for dropping off backpacks in the FBC
office is Thursday, October 24**

