

# Backpack Day 2021

## **PURPOSE AND VISION**

On September 18 and 19, we are encouraging Southern Baptists across the country to join us for a Send Relief Backpack Day. As the school year begins, many children are going to class without the items they need because their families can't afford to provide them. This is a great time help fill that need by filling backpacks with school supplies and look for other needs in your community as well.

## WAYS TO SERVE

There are many effective ways to meet tangible needs and share the love of Christ with your neighbors, regardless of the size of your church. If your church family is already engaged with a compassion ministry that could benefit from a backpack project, we hope you will use this opportunity to continue that good work. But if you are still looking for ideas, download our free [backpack ministry guide](#), or consider one of these options:

- > **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Restock school supplies for children in need. Most local schools have a list of the children on assisted meal plans, so they can give you the number of students, their age range and the supplies needed for the specific grade. Items could include paper, pens, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, erasers, notebooks/composition books, folders, etc.
- > **FOSTER CARE:** Fostering and adoptive families can benefit from a packing project at your church that provides them with basic needs for the child or children they receive in their homes. Package items could include new socks, underwear, hats, gloves, pajamas, shoes, small toys and books. Each bag you pack should be sorted by gender and age or size range. You can connect with your local county office for child and family services or children's advocates to confirm what items are needed most.
- > **FOOD RELIEF:** This is a great opportunity to invest in food relief through projects in your own community by packing non-perishables into backpacks. Consider distributing these food items to the homeless in your neighborhood or underprivileged children who don't have access to food when they are not in school. You can also partner with your local food bank to find out what items would be most helpful.
- > **SHELTERS:** Contact a local women's or children's shelter in your area. Ask the director about their schedule and if the items could be delivered at a specific time. Items for women could include small travel size shampoos, conditioner, soaps, lotion, body powder, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, hair accessories, socks, gloves, warm hats. If the shelter houses children, ask the staff about the age range and genders for the children and prepare backpacks accordingly, which could include new socks, underwear, hats, gloves, pajamas, shoes, small toys and books.