



The year of sports-themed shoeboxes

Want to give your shoeboxes a special twist this year? With the London 2012 Olympics just around the corner, why not get into the spirit of things...with sports-themed shoeboxes!

Not only will this give your group the chance to do something a bit different this year, you will also have the chance to send sporty items to underprivileged children around the world.

FOR EVERYONE...make your shoeboxes sports-themed

GIFTS: Include a tennis ball, skipping rope, baseball hat, small football, inflatable beach ball, stop watch, sweat bands, swim goggles, toy medals or some other sports item that would bring a smile to a child!

BOX: Decorate your shoebox with sporty stickers, drawings or make your own Olympic-themed wrapping paper.

MESSAGE: Add a message to your child, stating the shoebox has come from the home of the next Olympics and that you hope they enjoy the sports items in their box.

FOR CHURCHES...host a sports-themed shoebox celebration



We are partnering with More Than Gold (www.morethangold.org.uk) to encourage churches to use shoeboxes to connect with their local community in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics.

Here are just a few suggestions of what you can do as part of a shoebox event with an Olympic twist:

- Run a few sports-themed games/activities (turn over for specific games ideas)
- Focus on a country receiving shoeboxes and taking part in the Olympics – share some facts and stories and get people praying for that country
- Take a group picture of everyone holding up their shoeboxes... arranged into the Olympic rings (this might take some coordination!)

FOR WORKPLACES...get your colleagues into the Olympic spirit

- Host a competition to find the best sporty shoebox in the workplace
- Create an online Olympics quiz and email it to your work colleagues to test their knowledge
- On the day shoeboxes are collected, agree to make it a 'Special Dress' day – with a sporty theme!





FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS... organise a sports-themed get-together

- Run a few sports-themed games/activities (see below for specific games ideas)
- Host an Olympic-themed quiz that will test their sporty memories
- Create a display board focused on a country receiving shoeboxes – a combination of sports and shoebox facts and stories

Suggested sports-themed games & activities

Shoeboxes are fun and easy-to-use for sports-themed games and activities like these:

- **Shoebox Relay Race** – get participants passing the shoebox baton to others in their team as they race around the circuit
- **Shoebox Long Jump** – use some spare, empty shoeboxes; line them up and see who can clear them all in the longest jump
- **Shoebox Javelin** – fill a spare shoebox with non-breakable items, and challenge participants to throw it as far as they can (need a big hall or outdoor space for this one)
- **Shoebox Basketball** – use empty shoeboxes as your 'nets' and challenge participants to throw as many balls from a marked distance into the shoebox as possible

- **Shoebox Sprint** – get participants to plant their feet inside empty shoeboxes and sprint to the finishing line by sliding their 'shoeboxed' feet across the floor

Keep in touch

If you come up with any other ideas – or if you choose to use one of the ones suggested – we would love to hear about it! Please send any photos and short snippets of what you got up to:

Via email: marketing@samaritans-purse.org.uk

Via website: www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/your-story

Via facebook: www.facebook.com/occuk

