

back-to-school shoes

provided by the
national Girls Ministries Department





Overview

what: A back-to-school shoe drive

purpose: To collect new shoes to give to a local shelter or underprivileged elementary school so kids in need can start the school year off with a new pair of shoes
To allow congregation members to participate in a Girls Ministries event whether or not they have students in the clubs.
To provide an outreach event where the girls can build relationships with each other and with those they encounter during the event.
To raise the awareness of the girls of those who are less fortunate.

where: Research possible avenues to donate the shoes — women's shelter, elementary school located in low-income area, local charity...preferably an avenue where you could take a field trip to with some of the girls so they can see with their own eyes how they have been a blessing. Place a large, decorated cardboard box (refrigerator, television...) in the lobby or some other high traffic area of your local church to serve as a drop-off box.

who: Everyone! Girls Clubs members can participate (either individually or with a partner) by buying a pair of shoes for another child who is less fortunate than themselves. It can also include congregation members who would like either to donate a new pair of shoes or give money towards the purchase of new shoes.



the nitty gritty

- Research a few options of where you could donate the new shoes you have collected. You know your community. Is there a women's shelter nearby where mothers are temporarily seeking refuge with their children? Is there an elementary school situated in a low-income area? Is there a local charity, adoption center, or foster care facility that you could team up with?
- Once you have selected a place, make contact with a key person there to inform them of what you intend to do and ask if they have any advice, suggested time frame, or regulations.

You will also want to create guidelines for the shoes you accept depending on the location you have decided on and how organized you want to be:

- Ex: Any size, either gender
- Any size, but just girls' shoes
- Either gender, each club brings the shoe size for their age

- Determine the dates and duration of your shoe drive — e.g., actively promoting and making the drop off box available during the month of August so you can present the collected shoes to the entity you selected the first week in September.
- Establish volunteers to: set out and put away the cardboard drop off box before and after services or events that take place during your drop off period; collect and store the donated shoes in a safe location at the end of each day the drop off box is available; handle any money given toward the purchase of new shoes; bring the shoes to the designated site after the shoe drive is finished.

two weeks before:

- Hunt down a large cardboard box! Bring the box to a club meeting and let the girls have a craft night to decorate it, fitting the "back-to-school" theme. see box sign
- Get the word out. Include a few sentences in the church bulletin or video announcements explaining what you're doing, how the congregation can help, and the dates of your shoe drive.

one week before:

- Include an insert in the bulletin or submit a few sentences to be shared in the video announcements at church. see insert
- Hang up posters around the church. see poster



during the event:

- Designate a storage closet or other secure place to store the shoes during the event. Appoint a few of your girls to transfer the shoes that have been left at the drop off box to the secure storage place at the end of church services on Sunday morning/night and Wednesday night (for example) so there is no threat of theft.
- Keep the bulletin and video announcements coming. Events that last a few weeks tend to fizzle out at the end because people don't know the event is still going on.
- Contact local shoe stores in your community, describing your shoe drive and where the shoes will be donated. It is possible that a few shoe stores may be interested in donating or discounting some of their inventory.
- Get in touch with your contact person at the donation site you've selected and make plans to bring some of the girls by to present the shoes you've collected. It will be very special for your girls to see how they have been a blessing to other kids their age who were in need of new shoes to start off the school year. If the donation site is not kid-friendly or if you are unable to bring the kids to the site, consider having a representative from the donation site come to one of your club meetings so all of your girls can present the shoes.
- Hold some sort of event to present the shoes. If you chose a location that is kid-friendly and it would be a good field trip for the girls (women's shelter, foster or adoption center, elementary school), arrange a time for the girls to visit so they can present the shoes to the other children or a representative. If you chose a donation location that is just a collection center, see if you can make arrangements to have a representative from that location come to one of your club meetings so the girls can all be present when the shoes are given. Make it fun. Have the girls bring treats.

after the event:

- Make one final announcement thanking the congregation for their contributions to the shoe drive and update them with how many shoes were donated.

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bulletin inserts

Type in your own personalized message (intro paragraph, dates of drive, kinds of shoes people can donate, location of drop-off box(es), where the shoes will be going, etc.) in the blank space in the middle. Duplicate and insert into bulletins or use as handouts.

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a shoe drive provided by the Girls Ministries Girls Clubs

when?

where?

what can I give?

where will they go?



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