



2024 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 2024.



ITEMS TO COLLECT

Each zippered backpack should include:

1) **ITEMS OF NEW WARM CLOTHING** including a winter cap, gloves, 2-3 socks, and scarf

2) **METAL POP-TOP CANS OF FOOD** (3-4 cans) such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit

3) At least one or two **NEW, AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS** Examples: small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, puzzles, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, other (*no toy weapons, please!*) For older youth category, substitute appropriate item for toy. No pocketknives! (*See website for suggestions.*)

4) **HYGIENE ITEMS** including toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush /comb, **full-sized** shampoo toothpaste, deodorant (*please fit these 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** (*no particular version is required*) **This is the most important thing that goes into the pack! Please include!**

7) **A COPY OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY** (*downloadable and printable pdf found on website*)

GOAL and COLLECTION DATE:

The statewide goal is to collect **22,000 backpacks** of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need in late November and December of 2024. The state-wide collection day for 2024 is **Saturday, November 2** from 9am to noon. Thirty plus collection sites will be set up across the state for churches to bring their backpacks to. Specific sites will be listed on the Baptists On Mission website in September. **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. Age groupings are 4-7, 8-10; 11-14; and 15-17 Due to labels falling off in previous years, we use a ribbon system for labeling the backpacks. A **royal blue** (or similar) ribbon will indicate a **boy's backpack**. A **pink** ribbon will indicate a **girl's backpack**. In addition, a **yellow** ribbon will indicate that the backpack is for **ages 4-7**, a **green** ribbon for ages **8-10**, a **red** ribbon for ages **11-14**; and a white ribbon for ages **15-17**.

Please prepare each backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used. Please include items from each category listed to the right. **Please do not neglect to put in a Bible!** This may be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love.

For more information contact



Mark Abernathy
mabernathy@ncbaptist.org
919-459-5607

More information and specific details available on our ACO webpage at:

www.baptistsonmission.org/aco

“Your participation will mean so much and may make an eternal difference in a child's life!”

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Your church and association: _____

Contact person's name: _____

Contact's Email : _____

Contact's Phone number(s): _____

WAYS CHURCHES, FAMILIES, and INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP (Check all that apply):

- 1) Our church will **COLLECT BACKPACKS AND TAKE THEM TO THE NEAREST COLLECTION SITE**. State-wide collection will take place **Saturday, November 2** at 30+ sites across the state. We will access information on what items to collect and how to pack them from the Baptists on Mission website at www.baptistsonmission.org/aco
- 2) Our church would be willing to **BE A COLLECTION SITE FOR OUR AREA** for Christmas backpacks - if needed. We can have volunteers ready to meet and assist those who might bring backpacks by on Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 am until noon. We can have either an enclosed trailer or a box truck available for the backpacks to be loaded into for later transport (or will be able to store them in our church until we can transport them). A volunteer (and helper) from our church will then transport the backpacks to either Shelby Mission Camp or Red Springs Mission Camp on Friday, November 8.
- 3) Our church would like to **PARTNER WITH AN APPALACHIAN MINISTRY/CHURCH** to conduct a Christmas event. Event may include preparation of food, games, gospel presentation, etc. We understand that we would deliver and distribute filled backpacks to the ministry site at the event and participate in ministry activities, which will be planned according to the desires and direction of the host ministry center/church. Teams wishing to participate must register through BoM's ACO Partnership. *(Note that spots for this is limited each year. We will do the best we can to partner you.)*
- 4) Our church will be willing to **DELIVER BACKPACKS TO NEEDED AREAS**. Often, ministry areas do not plan to partner with a church to do an event, but still need backpacks delivered. We have great need for those willing to help in getting the backpacks to needed areas by providing a box truck/covered trailer and drivers to deliver and help unload the packs.
- 5) Our church can send volunteers to **WORK A DAY AT SHELBY or RED SPRINGS MISSION CAMP** to process the backpacks that are collected from across the state. This will include examining the backpacks to make sure they include needed materials, sorting them according to age/gender, and preparing them for transport. This will take place from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 9. Place a check by the mission camp at which you would be available to work. *(Space is limited for this. We will determine how many volunteers are needed at each site and confirm with you prior to the event).*

___ **Shelby Mission Camp- Sat. November 9**
 _____ **Volunteers (conservative estimate)**

___ **Red Springs Mission Camp – Sat., November 9**
 _____ **Volunteers (conservative estimate)**

Please return this form to Mark Abernathy, Baptists on Mission at mabernathy@ncbaptist.org or 919-460-6329 (fax)
 Or mail to Baptists on Mission, PO Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512 Attn: Mark Abernathy