

# HOW TO ORGANIZE A COLLECTION DRIVE

*Operation Gratitude sends 100,000+ Care Packages each year to deployed Troops and Wounded Warriors. We rely on donations to help us show our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines that they are not alone!*



Holding a Collection Drive for Operation Gratitude is an active and fun way for your friends, neighbors, or organization to show support for our troops!

## To begin your Collection Drive:

- Notify your constituency of the dates, times, and location of collection.
- Specify what items you will accept. (Some suggestions can be found in the Wish List to the right.)
- Encourage donors to include personal letters to the Troops. These are often the most cherished items in our care packages.
- Keep in mind that we only accept delivery of items during the following times:
  - **PATRIOTIC DRIVE:** March 15th thru May 5th
  - **HOLIDAY DRIVE:** September 15th thru December 5th

## WISH LIST

- Knit Hats & Scarves
- Cool Ties or Neck Gators
- Yarn
- Beanie Babies, Webkinz, Trolls, or other small plush toys
- Halloween or Easter Candy
- Socks (preferably black, brown, green, or tan – not white)
- Mini battery-powered fans
- Personal Electronics
  - iPods,
  - DVDs,
  - CDs,
  - Video Games,
  - Flash Drives
  - Headsets (Headphones & Microphones)
  - WebCams
  - Used cell phones/PDAs
- Gift Cards to chain stores, such as
  - Walmart,
  - Walgreens,
  - Target,
  - etc.
- Snacks, such as
  - Energy Bars
  - Beef Jerky
  - Trail Mix
  - Nuts
  - Sunflower Seeds
  - Candy
  - Ready-to-eat Tuna or Chicken Salad kits
  - Girl Scout Cookies
  - Single serving Powdered Beverage Mixes
  - Single serving boxes of cold cereal
  - Single serving packets of hot cereal
- Personal Care Products
  - Lip Balm
  - Toothpaste
  - Toothbrushes
  - Roll-on Deodorant
  - Razors
  - Individual packets of moist towelettes
  - Hand/Foot Warmers
  - Foot powder (travel size)
- Blank greeting cards or stationery



Ship all donations to:

**OPERATION GRATITUDE**

**17330 Victory Boulevard**

**Van Nuys, CA 91406**

**Attn: Rich Hernandez: 262-674-7281**

For more information visit us on the web at [www.OperationGratitude.com](http://www.OperationGratitude.com)  
on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OperationGratitude](http://www.facebook.com/OperationGratitude)  
or send an email to [OpGrat@gmail.com](mailto:OpGrat@gmail.com)