

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES (COMMUNITY)

Help provide care packages to deployed American military heroes around the world by hosting a packing party. These events are a lot of fun and appreciated by the active military members who receive them. The best items to pack inside a care package include high-quality socks, drink mixes, protein bars, condiments, snacks, toiletries, and entertainment items. Assign items to your guests so everyone brings something to contribute. Make sure you seal everything in plastic zip-lock bags to keep items fresh and protected from the elements. For safety reasons, you can't send care packages to "any soldier" so ask friends and family who they know serving overseas. Another option is to reach out to the closest military base and find out how you can support troops in need. They'll gladly give you information. If you need boxes, consider grabbing the free at the post office. The 12 x 12 x 5 boxes can be packed as heavy as you'd like and shipped for a low flat rate. And don't forget to include hand-written notes to the soldiers thanking them for their service.

WHO TO INVITE

Invite friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and anyone else you think would like to participate.

TIMING

Sending military care packages is appreciated year-round. However, you may want to consider scheduling your packing party in mid-June so they can be shipped in time for the 4th of July holiday. It can take about 10-14 days for the soldiers to receive mail overseas.

VENUE

Host your packing party around your kitchen table at home. Or, if you have a larger group, consider having it at your office or reserve a private room at an area church or community center.

AGENDA

Planning is key to any successful event. Consider following this schedule the day of your party.

1. Welcome
2. Sort/Organize Care Package Items
3. Assemble Shipping Boxes
4. Write Personal Notes to Soldiers
5. Pack Boxes
6. Address Boxes
7. Mail Packages

WHAT YOU NEED

Supplies

- ☐ Tables (for food and beverage and packaging)
- ☐ Chairs
- ☐ Table coverings
- ☐ Flat rate boxes (12 x 12 x 5)
- ☐ Packaging tape
- ☐ Gallon size zip lock bags
- ☐ Shipping labels

- ☐ Sharpies
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Blank notecards
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Red, white and blue decorations (flags, balloons, streamers)
- ☐ Beverage cooler (to keep drinks chilled)
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Appetizer plates
- ☐ Plastic utensils

Also be sure to check out our [Party Planning Checklist](#) to make sure you have all your bases covered.

Awkward Agent®

- ☐ Serving utensils
- ☐ Serving platters
- ☐ Trash can
- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Sound system/speaker
- ☐ iPhone or camera to take pictures

Food & Drink

Serve up patriotic themed treats like:

- ☐ Red, white and blue M & M Cookies
- ☐ Watermelon Stars (cut watermelon with star shaped cookie cutter)
- ☐ Mini yogurt parfaits with granola, strawberries and blueberries
- ☐ Strawberries dipped in white chocolate with red and blue sprinkles
- ☐ Pepsi
- ☐ Lemonade
- ☐ Iced Tea

GOOD VIBES ONLY

Icebreaker

Before you start assembling care packages, break the ice with your volunteers by going around the table and asking the following questions:

- ☐ What is your name?
- ☐ Did you ever serve in the military, or do you know someone who is currently active overseas?

Music

Download a patriotic playlist off Spotify or create your own with classic songs like Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" or "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue" by Toby Keith. These hits will inspire everyone as they pack these meaningful care packages for our brave soldiers.

HELPFUL TIPS

Get the Word Out

We recommend advertising your event with the following:

- ☐ Phone calls
- ☐ Flyers
- ☐ Email and text messages
- ☐ Social media

Collateral

Further promote your personal brand with the following:

- ☐ Water bottle labels
- ☐ Snack labels
- ☐ Thank you cards
- ☐ Social media posts and volunteer shout outs (after the event)

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