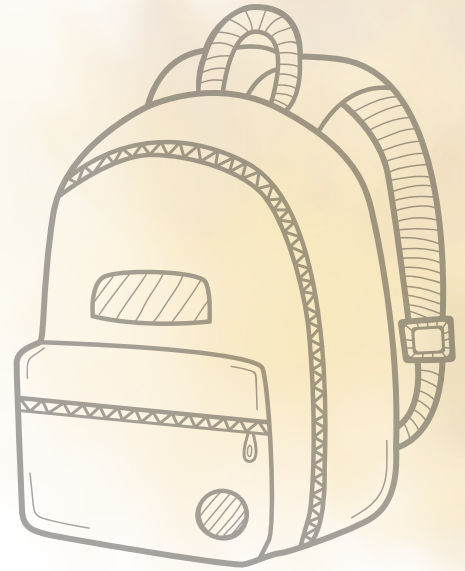


BACKPACKS FIRST FIVE

You have heard about the opportunity to pack and gift backpacks and may wonder, “What can I do?”



Backpacks First Five is designed to help you take five steps towards individuals in your community who will be encouraged by receiving a backpack. Each of the five steps will also give you the opportunity to see God at work in and through your church.

At any point along the way, feel free to email Noonday (info@noondaynet.org) or Mission Georgia (missiongeorgia@gabaptist.org) with questions.

STEP 1

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST.

Fill out the registration form at www.noondaynet.org/missions. This will notify Noonday staff that you are interested in Backpacks.

STEP 2

TALK WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR CHURCH ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY BY PACKING AND GIVING BACKPACKS.

- If you're a pastor, let your congregation know you are looking at bringing the Backpack ministry to the community. Find out who is interested through email, interest meetings, and/or personal contacts.
- If you are a church member, ask to meet with your pastor or other leadership to discuss the opportunity to bring Backpacks to your community. Ask if the church is already involved in this type of ministry and discuss the possibility of taking further steps of action.
- Give every member a chance to learn more about the opportunity to participate, whether it is youth, families, young adults, or senior adults.

STEP 3

CONNECT WITH A LOCAL SCHOOL OR MINISTRY.

- Decide on the type of backpack you would like to pack. It could be a pregnancy center backpack, a foster care backpack, a school readiness backpack, etc. If you are connecting to a particular ministry, you may want to ask them for suggested items.
- Decide on a day to pack the backpacks and for them to be delivered to your school of ministry.
- Give specific ways the church can pray for the ministry and develop additional revenues of support.

STEP 4

GATHER DONATIONS AND/OR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE WITH THE MINISTRY THAT HAS BEEN CHOSEN.

- Publicize the need for donations of requested items for your Backpack ministry. Make sure you create awareness that reaches all age levels and connects through various outlets (email, social media, etc.).
- Give a variety of ways for individuals to participate. Some can pray, some can pick up or deliver donations, and others can promote or donate funds.

STEP 5

CELEBRATE THE WAYS YOUR CHURCH SERVED THE COMMUNITY.

- Celebrate the backpack ministry. After you have delivered the backpacks or served with the ministry, make a big deal of it! With permission, post pictures on your church social media using the hashtags #missiongeorgia and #noonday.
- Share brief testimonies during worship services and ask church members to continue to pray for those who are serving the vulnerable.
- Send stories of your experience to info@missiongeorgia.org and to info@noondaynet.org.