

Stocking drive FAQs

1. *How do I get a name for a stocking and can I buy for more than one child?*

Send an email to Hohoho@uOttawa.ca telling us you'd like to participate. If you would like the name of more than one child, please just let us know in your email. We'll then send you the first name(s), age and gender of your child(ren). If you'd like to fill stockings for all children in a family, please let us know and we'll do our best to match you with a family (but not all the centres indicate whether any children are from the same family).

Matches are done on a first come-first first-served basis.

2. *What are the ages of the children?*

Ages can vary from 1 month to 17 years.

3. *I'd like to purchase clothing items. Can you tell me what size the child wears?*

Unfortunately, this isn't possible as centre volunteers don't provide this level of detail in their lists.

4. *What size of stocking should I fill and how much money should I spend?*

Some people fill typical Christmas stockings while others fill gift bags, backpacks or boxes. However, we leave it up to the individuals to decide what they'll fill and how much they'll spend. If you want to provide your child (or children) with a larger stocking, bag or box of goodies, you could get together with friends or colleagues and pitch!

Bigger isn't always best. Remember that good things come in small packages!

5. *What types of items should I put in the stocking?*

We suggest you include fun items like books, toys, arts and crafts supplies, puzzles, maybe some chocolate or candy canes as well as items that are more practical, such as socks, mittens, a scarf, etc. For children in their teens, see our suggestions below. If the child is a baby, diapers are usually a welcomed surprise for parents.

If you're going to include some gently used toys, please make sure they look new and are clean.

6. *What kinds of things can I buy for a teenager?*

Some suggestions include gift cards for the cinema, iTunes, clothing stores, Tim Hortons, etc. OC Transpo or STO bus tickets might be appreciated, too. You could also add a nice scarf, gloves (especially the ones for use with touch screens), maybe a travel mug, a USB key, some hot chocolate or a magazine or book.

Be creative! Get ideas from your children, family members, friends and colleagues too!

And most importantly, have fun!

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