

Supplies:

1 Shoe Box (or any small box with a lid of similar size) – important to determine box size in advance as all players receive their boxes at the same time.

Aluminum foil or brown paper (paper works better for decorating)

Crafting products (photos, markers, stickers, etc.)

Plenty of items in the team colors and baseball decorations. Scrapbooking supplies work well or you can download and print clip art from the web.

A themed item for the team, for example, if your mascot is a Lion every box could incorporate a lion-themed keepsake. If your team has a nickname that works well with a product on the market that's great. For example, if your team colors are red and white and you often cheer let's go red, then a packet of Big Red gum in every box is a good reminder.

Some planning ahead could help everyone get certain items together for a cost-savings (examples: tissue paper, gum, candy, paper, art supplies). Having a party to decorate also helps cut costs because you can assign certain group-use items to each person.

Content

A homemade treat (cookies, brownies, mini-cakes, a sweet homemade bread)

Something specific to the player (inside joke gift, something with their number, etc.)

Their favorite candies or chips

Fruit

Nutrition bars

Sports drinks

Gum

Magazine

Puzzle Book

Deck of cards

iTunes card to download 5€ worth of music to listen to on the road trip

Get creative and learn about your player – what they do when they travel – to really step up the personalization of the contents.

Going back to the example, if your mascot is the Lion every box could contain a Lion candy bar as a “staple food” to represent the mascot and be something treat-worthy.

Staple Item Ideas

Sunflower seeds

Gum

Eye Black

Sunscreen

Icy Hot

Shoe Laces

Tissue

Lip balm

Team color face paint (it's not likely they'll use it but it's a nice spirit inducer)

Steps

Wrap the box in either foil, team colored tissue paper or brown paper.

Test the wrapping job to ensure the box lid can be opened and closed with ease. Remember they will be traveling with the boxes.

Decorate the boxes to make them specific to both the team and the individual. Ideas include team stickers, the player's number, the mascot, the year, baseball stickers, use of team colors, etc.

Fill the box with items that you have selected to give your assigned player.

Each box will be given secretly so there should be something on the outside that tells the player it belongs to them. Only the contents should reveal a personal connection where there is one (for example including a treat made from their family's recipe or a special toy from their younger sibling).

Logistics

- 1) When the entire team is going, or if you have multiple players on the national team, every player needs a box for this to work. No one can be left out so start by assigning boxes to decorators.
- 2) All boxes are given secretly and not by the decorator. Determine a deadline date and drop off point when beginning the project if you will not be decorating together.
- 3) Someone will need to arrange for all the boxes to the team before the players arrive to leave. Access to the locker room to put them in everyone's locker before they are due at the field to leave always works well. You can also decorate the locker room with streamers and balloons to add to the spirit of things. Use the team colors, as well as the mascot, in the decorating themes throughout.

Most important is to have fun making them! This is a way for all of you to see one another and celebrate the team that gives you hours of entertainment in summer. Make a party of it. Bring snack foods, drinks and music to fuel you through the decorating process. Help one another make up for weaknesses by sharing your strength. If you are a great baker but terrible crafter, offer to bake in exchange for help decorating your box from a friend who's better with scissors than a spatula.