

*The Orange Library Association will be seeking the following items to send to our deployed troops. Please bring them to the “Salute to Veterans” from noon-5 p.m. Sunday, November 9, at the Galleria at Crystal Run in Middletown. You can also send items to Lisa Hewel, c/o Josephine-Louise Public Library, 5 Scofield Street, Walden, NY 12586.*

**Suggested food pantry items to donate**

- Applesauce
- Baby food
- Beans, baked, canned or dried
- Beef stew, canned
- Bread and muffin mixes
- Cereal, dry
- Chicken, canned
- Chili, canned
- Crackers
- Flour
- Fruit, canned or dried
- Granola bars
- Honey
- Hot cereal mixes
- Infant cereal
- Infant formula
- Instant breakfast drinks
- Jelly and jam
- Juice, 100%, canned or boxed
- Macaroni and cheese mix
- Mayonnaise
- Noodles, dry or mixes
- Nuts, canned
- Oatmeal
- Pancake mix
- Pastas, canned or dry
- Peanut butter
- Powdered milk
- Pudding, canned and boxed
- Raisins
- Rice and rice mixes
- Salad dressing
- Shredded Wheat
- Soups
- Spaghetti sauce
- Sugar
- Syrup
- Tomato juice
- Tomato products, canned
- Tuna, canned
- Vegetable oil
- Vegetables, canned

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### **Food and drink**

- *Powdered drinks.* Send hot beverage mixes such as cocoa, instant coffee, tea bags, and creamer on cold months. In warmer months, send sweetened drink mixes such as lemonade and iced tea.
- *Meal enhancers.* Anything that can be mixed with MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), such as ramen noodles, seasoned salt, individual packets of hot sauce, mustard, relish, and ketchup.
- *Quick protein.* Energy bars, tuna fish, sardines, nonperishable beef jerky, or beef summer sausage. Make sure the meat is labeled USDA Beef.
- *Snacks.* Look for small, hard containers of chips, pretzels, and nuts. These are easier to carry than large containers. Avoid bags, which may burst under high pressure. If you do send large bags or containers, include small zipper-lock bags so your service member can pack smaller amounts of snacks to carry. Snack cakes, cheese crackers, and cookies are in high demand. Salty snacks are good for those deployed in the desert, especially in the summer months, because they will encourage service members to drink more water.
- *Candy and gum.* Avoid chocolate. It will melt in the heat. Gum and other types of candy may soften and become gooey, so send these in plastic zipper-lock bags.

### **Personal care and clothing**

Choose small, travel-size containers of personal care products, and avoid aerosol cans. To keep liquids from spilling, cover the opening of the container with plastic wrap, and recap before shipping.

- *Toiletries.* Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, cotton swabs, shaving lotion, disposable razors, shampoo, individually packaged tissues.
- *Personal care.* Individually packaged baby wipes, eye drops, lip balm, lotion, aspirin or other pain reliever, feminine hygiene products for women.
- *Foot care.* Moleskin, medicated foot powder, athlete's-foot ointment.
- *Disposable hand warmers.* Send these during the winter if service members are in a cold climate.
- *Fingerless gloves, stocking caps, long underwear, if the climate is cold.*

### **Entertainment and communication**

- *Reading material.* Paperback books, current magazines, comic books.
- *Word games and puzzles.* Crossword puzzles, word searches, jigsaw puzzles.
- *Games.* Foam footballs and basketballs, Frisbees, Hacky Sacks, playing cards.
- *Electronics.* DVDs, CDs, handheld electronic games.
- *Batteries.* Size AA and D batteries are in high demand.
- *Disposable camera.*
- *Writing material.* Notepaper, envelopes, pens, pencils, and stamps.
- *Phone cards.* Shop around to get the best deal on overseas minutes.

### **What not to send**

If your service members are in the Middle East or Persian Gulf areas, you should not send anything that would offend people of the Islamic faith, including pork or pork by-products, obscene material, religious materials contrary to Islam, anything depicting nude or semi-nude persons, pornographic or sexual items, alcohol, or nonauthorized political materials.

*Thank you.*