



Operation Celebration

Developed by the 2025-2026 NL Youth Forum

All-Branch Service Project

Celebrations are an important way to recognize milestones, achievements, and special moments; however, not every child, youth, or family has the resources or opportunity to celebrate these moments. Across Newfoundland and Labrador, many families may not have access to supplies for birthdays, achievements (big or small), graduations, cultural celebrations, or other life circumstances. By creating and donating celebration boxes filled with celebration supplies, Girl Guides can help ensure that all children and youth have the opportunity to feel celebrated, recognized, and included.

The Operation Celebration Service Project was developed by the 2025-2026 NL Youth Forum to spread kindness, joy, equity, and inclusivity through the simple act of giving. Each box can contain the essentials for a small celebration, such as cake mix, icing, candles, decorations, and a small gift. This project also encourages empathy, gratitude, and understanding of the diverse experiences of others, while helping to reduce stigma around financial hardship through awareness and open dialogue.

This service project can be completed by any level of Guiding, from Sparks to Trefoil Guild, and all are encouraged to participate. We recommend completing activities that address all four aspects of the Service Project - Education, Get Creative, Collection, and Advocacy & Reflection - where possible. If you have any questions, please email nl-youth@girlguides.ca. Service Project crests can be purchased through the [Girl Guides of Newfoundland and Labrador website here](#).

Girl Guides of Canada recognizes that financial challenges and celebrations can be sensitive topics for some members and their families. Operation Celebration recognizes that families and communities are diverse, and celebrations may look different for everyone. This project aims to promote dignity, belonging, and inclusion by helping ensure that all children and youth have the opportunity to feel valued and celebrated regardless of their financial situation, background, culture, ability or family structure. It may be helpful to discuss the themes of this Service Project with families before beginning. GGC believes in the dignity and value of all people, and that everyone deserves to feel celebrated and included. Through participation, members will not only bring happiness to others, but also learn about compassion, equity, and community care.

Please remember that per GGC policy, units cannot collect money for other organizations as a charitable organization, nor can unit funds be used to purchase gift cards. If monetary donations are received in support of the Operation Celebration Service Project, the funds must be used to purchase items to include directly in the Celebration Boxes.



Be sure to tag @NL_YouthForum in your social media post

Part 1 – Education

What is a Celebration Box?

Outcome: Participants learn empathy, social awareness, and the impact of small acts of kindness.

It's important to focus on understanding *why* Celebration Boxes matter. Learn about Operation Celebration Box and how this Service Project can help your community by investigating their purpose, and learn more about kindness and inclusion.

As a unit, discuss:

- *Why are celebrations important?*
- *What achievements or milestones might be important to celebrate*
- *What might it feel like to not be able to celebrate?*
- *How can you make celebrations inclusive for everyone?*
- *How can you make celebrations affordable and accessible?*

Read a story, or watch a short video about kindness or inclusion, such as:

- “Why Be Kind?” - <https://youtu.be/UCCb85TgeEU?si=w1SFyzo1Ky5JJFEA>
- “The Science of Kindness” - https://youtu.be/O9UByLyOjBM?si=3Y1E7IV_eR4IH0KH
- “Have you Filled a Bucket Today?” by Carol McCloud
- “The Gift Inside the Box” by Adam Grant and Allison Sweet Grass

Invite a guest speaker (such as someone from a food bank or community organization) to talk about their work, the impact of giving, or about where Celebration Boxes go.

What is a Celebration Box?

A Celebration Box is a collection of party supplies that is donated to local food banks, shelters, or community organizations. These boxes help families celebrate birthdays, achievements, graduations, cultural celebrations, or other special milestones by providing supplies for a small celebration. The purpose of a Celebration Box is to help ensure that children and youth can feel celebrated and recognized for important in their lives, even if their families may not have access to celebration supplies.

Here is a great video on YouTube about one organization that is collecting Birthday Boxes and the benefits of donating them: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq9JSVUI_hs (Video courtesy of CBS19 in Texas, USA)

What to Put in a Celebration Box

To begin, you will need a box with a lid to hold all of your collected items. If a box with a lid is not readily available, other options can include larger tote bags, cardboard boxes with flaps that can be taped down, etc.

Some suggested supplies for your Celebration Box include:

- **Treat-making supplies:** Cake mix (Fun fact: you can use a can of any pop flavour instead of the other ingredients listed on the box), icing, sprinkles, candles (also matches), disposable (or reusable) cake pans, cupcake liners, cake toppers and other decorations.
- **Party decorations:** Balloons, streamers, tablecloth, and ribbon.
- **Single-use dinnerware:** Paper plates, napkins, paper cups, and disposable utensils
- **Fun surprises:** Cards (your unit can write kind messages or leave them blank for parents to fill in), small gifts such as a book or small toy, birthday button, gift wrapping supplies (gift bag, wrapping paper, tissue paper, tape), party invitations.
- **Extras:** Glow sticks, bubbles, Piñata, photo booth props, party favours, loot bags, party hats

Your Celebration Box does not need to include everything listed above, but it should contain the basic essentials of a celebration. Feel free to add other items if you think of something different or creative!

Before donating your boxes, you can decorate them with markers and other craft supplies to make them bright and cheerful.



Part 2 – Get Creative!

Put a Personal Touch on Your Celebration Box(es)!

Outcome: Participants practice compassion and emotional connection, not just donating items.

As a unit, or on your own, take the time to add a personal touch to your Celebration Box(es)! This is what can make Celebration Boxes truly magical!

- Design your own cards to add to the boxes. These can be left blank inside, or you can include handwritten messages. Consider decorating the gift bags too!
 - Include custom “celebration notes” inside:
 - *“You are special!”*
 - *“We hope your party is amazing!”*
- Decorate the boxes - let your creative juices flow and use markers, paint, ribbons, etc. to decorate the boxes before donating them.



Part 3 – Collection

How to Organize a Celebration Box Collection Drive

Step 1: Learn and Discuss

Begin by learning what Celebration Boxes are and who they help. As a unit, discuss why celebrating special events and accomplishments is important and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. If completing this project independently, research Celebration Boxes and their purpose with the support of a parent or Guider.

Step 2: Contact a Community Organization

Next, contact a local food bank, shelter, or community organization (such as a Single Parents Association) to confirm that they accept Celebration Boxes. Ask if they have any specific guidelines regarding packaging, box size, or allergy considerations. In Appendix A you will find a list of Food Banks across Newfoundland and Labrador, we suggest starting here.

If you are completing this project on your own as a youth member, ask a parent or Guider for assistance. Establish communication with your chosen organization and confirm that they are currently accepting donations. Let them know your plan for drop-off, including the date, location, and age range of the Celebration Boxes.

Step 3: Collect Supplies

Once you have chosen an organization to support, begin collecting the items needed for each Celebration Box. Think about what you would want for a fun celebration and work together to gather supplies that will bring joy to someone's special day. Suggested items to collect are listed on the previous page. If completing this with your unit, encourage each member of your unit to contribute one or two items if they are able.

Step 4: Assemble the Celebration Boxes

After collecting the supplies, work together to decorate and pack each box with care. Think about what will make the person celebrating smile when they open it. Add a personal touch by including homemade cards or cheerful notes. This simple gesture shows the recipient that someone took the time to make their day brighter.

Step 5: Donate and Reflect

Once your Celebration Boxes are complete, deliver them to your chosen organization. Consider asking the organization if you can assist beyond just dropping off the donations - perhaps they could use some assistance with organization their donation area, or even with deliveries of the boxes. After donating, take time as a group to reflect on what you learned, how it feels to give back, why celebrating are important, and how your actions help build a kinder and more positive community.



Part 4 – Advocacy & Reflection **Beyond the Donation**

This section is more suited towards older branches but is not limited to them. Learn about Advocacy and becoming an Advocate, then reflect on Operation Celebration!

Outcome: Participants become leaders and change-makers, not just participants. Learning sticks. Service becomes meaningful.

When you notice a problem in your community, what do you do? Advocacy is about standing up for something you believe in. It's about coming up with ideas and working with other people who can help solve problems and make a difference.

Advocacy Ideas:

- Create posters or social media posts about Celebration Boxes, or to advertise your Collection Drive.
- Share what you have learned with another unit or at school.
- Write a short reflection or article for your school newsletter
- Encourage others to start Celebration Box drives!

Reflection Ideas:

- Group circle discussion:
 - *What did you learn?*
 - *How did this service project make you feel?*
 - *Why do celebrations matter?*
- Draw or write about your experience
- Do a “One word check-in” with everyone: *Happy, Proud, Thankful, Inspired?*
- For younger girls: draw a picture of a party they hope someone has!



Appendix A: List of Food Banks Across Newfoundland and Labrador

*Is your local Food Bank not listed here?
Choose whichever location you would like to work with.*

Food Bank	Location
<u>TaKuaKautik Food Bank</u>	25 Ikajuktauvik Road, Nain
<u>St. Timothy's Anglican Church Food Bank</u>	Blake's Waterfront Street, Rigolet
<u>Labrador Friendship Centre - Community Food Bank</u>	49 Grenfell Street, Happy Valley-Goose Bay
<u>St. Peter's Anglican Church Cartwright Food Bank</u>	2 Willow Lane, Cartwright
<u>Labrador West Ministerial Food Bank</u>	610 Hudson Drive, Labrador City
<u>Burin Area Food Pantry</u>	46 Topsail Road, Black Duck Cove
<u>Straits Area Food Bank</u>	Plum Point Motel, Route 430, Plum Point
<u>St. Anthony and Area Food Sharing Association</u>	2 Maraval Drive, St Anthony
<u>Ingornachoix Ministerial Association Food Bank</u>	21 Main Street, Port Saunders
<u>Gros Morne Community Church Food Bank</u>	38 Main Street, Rocky Harbour
<u>Peninsula Used Clothing and Food Bank</u>	85 Highway 410, Baie Verte
<u>Deer Lake Regional Food Bank</u>	13A Northmain St, Suite 3, Deer Lake
<u>Green Bay Food Bank</u>	135 Main Street, Springdale
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Triton and Brighton</u>	246 Hwy 380, Triton
<u>Food Bank Network of the Bay of Islands</u>	6 Herald Avenue, Corner Brook
<u>Pasadena Pentecostal Church Food Bank</u>	3 Fourth Avenue, Pasadena
<u>Fogo Island Pride - Food Security</u>	9 Main Street, Fogo
<u>Salvation Army Summerford Food Bank - New World Island</u>	172 Main Street, Summerford
<u>Mary Phyllis Young Food Bank</u>	811 Oceanview Drive, Port Au Port
<u>Stephenville Emergency Food Bank</u>	103 Carolina Avenue, Stephenville Cinema Arcade, Stephenville
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Buchans</u>	18 Lakeview Avenue, Buchans
<u>Lewisporte Interfaith Goodwill Centre and Food Bank</u>	160 Main Street, Lewisporte
<u>Botwood Interfaith Goodwill Centre</u>	48 Commonwealth Drive, Botwood
<u>Trinity Bay North (Catalina Area) Community Care and Share Food Bank</u>	189-193 Main Street, Trinity Bay North
<u>Cape Freels Ministerial Food Bank</u>	41-45 Main Street, New-Wes-Valley
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Grand Falls-Windsor</u>	16 Hardy Avenue, Grand Falls-Windsor
<u>Bishop's Falls and Area Food Bank</u>	20A Lincoln Road, Grand Falls-Windsor
<u>Gander and Area Food Bank</u>	111 Memorial Avenue, Gander
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Gander</u>	157 Airport Boulevard, Gander
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Gambo</u>	JR Smallwood Boulevard, Gambo
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Channel-Port aux Basques</u>	98 Main Street, Channel - Port-Aux-Basques

<u>Bay D'Espeir Community Food Bank</u>	St. Albans Community Centre, 10 Church Road, St. Albans
<u>Salvation Army Food Banks - Clarenville</u>	281 Balbo Drive, Clarenville
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Lower Island Cove</u>	2 Main Street, Lower Island Cove
<u>Grand Bank-Fortune Community Food Bank</u>	2 Smallwood Drive, Grand Bank
<u>Helping Hands Family Aid - Marystown Food Bank</u>	Ville Marie Drive, Marystown
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Faith and Hope/Marystown</u>	407 Creston Boulevard, Marystown
<u>SSVP Carbonear Food Bank</u>	4 St. Clare Avenue, Carbonear
<u>Salvation Army Food Banks - Carbonear</u>	100 Water Street, Carbonear
<u>Society of St Vincent de Paul Food Bank - Harbour Grace</u>	434 Harvey Street, Harbour Grace South
<u>Helping Hand Food Hampers - Bay Roberts</u>	Patterson Street, Bay Roberts
<u>Caring by Sharing Food Bank - Bell Island</u>	Quigley's Line, Bell Island
<u>Northeast Avalon Foodbank</u>	16 Coady's Lane, Torbay
<u>NL Food Umbrella</u>	692 Torbay Road, St. John's
<u>Conception Bay South/Paradise Community Food Bank</u>	81-3 Conception Bay Highway, Conception Bay South
<u>McSheffrey Resource Centre Food Bank</u>	10 Brother McSheffrey Lane, St. John's
<u>Single Parent Association of Newfoundland (SPAN) - Food Bank</u>	472 Logy Bay Road, St. John's
<u>Virginia Park Community Centre - Family Programs</u>	43 Harding Road, Building 4, St. John's
<u>Divine Mercy Food Bank</u>	101 MacDonald Drive, St. John's
<u>MUN Campus Food Bank</u>	Room CA1000, Global Learning Centre, 21 Burton's Pond Road, MUN, St. John's
<u>Emmaus House Food Bank</u>	2B Bonaventure Avenue, St. John's
<u>Bridges to Hope Food Aid Centre</u>	37-39 Cookstown Road, St. John's
<u>Connections for Seniors</u>	157 Pennywell Road, St. John's
<u>Buckmaster's Circle Community Centre</u>	129 Brigade Street, St. John's
<u>St. Teresa's Conference Food Bank</u>	120 Mundy Pond Road, St. John's
<u>St. John's Status of Women Council - Safe Harbour Outreach Project</u>	170 Cashin Avenue Extension, St. John's
<u>Salvation Army Ches Penney Centre of Hope - Food Bank and Community Meals</u>	18 Springdale Street, St. John's
<u>NL Eats</u>	716 Water Street, St. John's
<u>Mary Queen of the World Food Bank</u>	775 Topsail Road, Mount Pearl
<u>Salvation Army Food Bank - Mount Pearl</u>	106 Ashford Drive, Mount Pearl