ADOPT A SOLDIER PROJECT

This holiday season, while we will be enjoying our presents and time with our family, many of our military troops will not get that opportunity.

Last winter, around [1.3 million soldiers](https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1400364/) were deployed for the holidays, unable to celebrate the season with their families.

In order to support our deployed troops this winter, Riptide is contributing to the Adopt a Soldier. Senior swimmer, Justin Kneeshaw, will be organizing this project with a friend from his school and has asked for support from our team.

The project will be to collect necessities and comfort items for our overseas soldiers and pack them into boxes, one for each soldier. The unit we are supporting is a highly classified unit, so we are not able to know if details such as how many are men and how many are women. Therefore, Riptide will be collecting items (list of suggested donations below), hopefully to provide for 41 boxes. If you feel inclined to, your family can take a box to fill on your own or you may also just bring in your donations to go in a box packed by us.

If you aren’t able to make an item donation, we are also in need of monetary donations in order to pay for overseas shipping. Please let Justin know if this is a better fit for you by emailing him at [justinkneeshaw@gmail.com](mailto:justinkneeshaw@gmail.com). We are very excited to assist Justin in this project and we ask for participation from everyone able. Thank you!

**List of Suggested Donations**

* Baby wipes
* Toothpaste. toothbrushes, floss
* Nail clippers, nail files
* Deodorant
* Bars or soap, Shampoo, conditioner
* Granola bars
* Jerky
* Gum, Mints
* Cookies (can stay fresh)
* Candy (that won't melt)
* Snack pack peanut butter
* Trail mix
* Books/ Magazines
* Chapstick with sunscreen
* Sunscreen
* Mini packs of kleenex
* iTunes gift cards
* Black socks (no logos, above angle/ army regulations)
* Word searches, sudoku, Crosswords
* Small blankets

\*Make sure products don’t have any alcohol in them, and no liquids or aerosols (Check back of product)

We thank you for your help and contributions to our nation’s servicemen and women. Thank you for taking the time to make another’s holiday bright. If you have questions, please contact Justin Kneeshaw at [justinkneeshaw@gmail.com](mailto:justinkneeshaw@gmail.com) or Coach Terri at [terri.eudy1@gmail.com](mailto:terri.eudy1@gmail.com)