



2009 National Backpack Program Fact Sheet

- What:** The Office Depot Foundation® will reach a significant milestone this year: it will donate its **2 millionth backpack** since initiating its National Backpack Program in 2001. During 2009, the Foundation will give approximately 300,000 backpacks containing essential school supplies to non-profit organizations, schools and agencies throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in several other countries. The recipients provide the backpacks to deserving children – primarily in grades K-5 – whom they serve through their programs or in their classrooms.
- Who:** The 2009 National Backpack Program is an initiative of the Office Depot Foundation – the independent non-profit foundation that serves as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. The Foundation’s mission, **Listen Learn Care®**, encompasses several key strategic priorities – including “helping children get ready for life and work.” The National Backpack Program directly supports this goal.
- Why:** These backpacks are truly a symbol of hope. By donating backpacks and school supplies, the Foundation believes strongly that it is making a difference in children’s lives by giving them important tools they need to start the school year with confidence, enhance their self-esteem and achieve success in the classroom.
- Where:** Every Office Depot store in the United States and Canada will receive an allocation of 25 backpacks to distribute in its community. In many cases, these stores will join with other Office Depots in their area to make the donations. In addition, the Office Depot Foundation will host special “Back-to-School Backpack Celebrations” in 25 communities. Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot®/Old Spice Chevy Impala SS in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, will take part in five of these events.
- In addition, the Foundation will partner with a number of national non-profit organizations that will distribute backpacks through their own networks, including the Tony Stewart Foundation, the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, City Year, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Feed The Children, the Kids In Need Foundation, Nourish America and the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL).
- When:** Backpacks will be distributed primarily during the months of July and August, prior to the beginning of the new school year.
- Details:** The 2009 backpacks are specially designed and manufactured so that children will be proud to carry them. They come in five different color schemes and feature two zippered front pockets plus wide, padded straps for comfort and support. Each backpack holds a pencil pouch containing a ruler, a pen, a pencil, a pencil sharpener, crayons, a glue stick and an eraser. Each one has a removable paper tag that lists backpack safety tips. They do not carry any permanent Office Depot or Office Depot Foundation branding.
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