

# SERVICE AUCTION BASKETS

## BASKET BASICS

Chalice Circles, Social Justice Teams, the Board, the choir, Youth Group, RE classes, the COA class, and groups of members or friends can hop on the basket train—just choose a theme and gather items for a basket.

Some ground rules and tips:

- Items can be new or in like-new condition (clean, no signs of wear, in working condition). It's okay to regift as long as the regifted item is new or in like-new condition.
- Baskets can be recycled from previous years. Be creative—a laundry basket, hamper, bucket, wheel barrow, or tub work well.
- Groups can arrange their own baskets, using tissue paper or shredded paper as cushioning or filler.
- If groups wrap their own basket, they must use clear cellophane as colored cellophane does not allow people a good view of what's in the basket.
- **THE BEST TIP OF ALL:** Groups can bring a basket and items to the Service Auction Wrap Party and experienced basket preparers will help arrange items, add paper shreds, and wrap in clear cellophane. The Wrap Party date will be announced shortly. Groups **MUST HAVE** baskets and items ready **NO LATER THAN MARCH 10.**

Note: Some businesses may wish to donate a pre-packaged basket. If you approach your employer or a local business and they are interested in donating a prepared basket, that's okay.

Most baskets are bid on in the Silent Auction. Bidders provide a written bid, and the highest bidder takes home the basket. Some baskets will be raffled off (with tickets available for purchase the night of the auction) or be available through the Live Auction.

## BASKET IDEAS

It's always fun to create baskets that reflect the Service Auction theme, and this year the theme is green.

- Nature and Outdoors
- Gardening
- St. Patrick's Day/Ireland/Irish
- Recycling and Green Living

Other ideas (and if you're stuck, look at Pinterest!):

- Breakfast or brunch basket (pancake mix, scone mix, syrup, jam)
- Pittsburgh (or other city) basket
- Sports (Steelers, Pirates, Penguins)
- Italian (or other nationality) basket
- Children's basket (can be age themed or activity themed, such as an art basket)
- Harry Potter
- Superheroes
- Rainy day activities for kids
- Books or music of a particular theme or genre (romance, mystery; blues, classic rock)
- Yarn basket (assorted yarns, patterns, needles, and maybe a few lessons)
- Gourmet foods
- Chocolate
- Desserts (recipes and ingredients for scrumptious desserts)
- Wine and cheese
- Beer lovers
- Spices and herbs
- BBQ or cookout
- Summer fun (beach towel, sunscreen, outdoor game)
- Tea or coffee lovers
- Pamper yourself basket (bath salts, soaps, essential oils, candles)
- Meditation basket
- Fitness or health and well-being
- Cat or dog basket (treats, toys, and maybe pet care, too)
- A coloring basket for grownups (books, pens)