



Wish Boost Guide



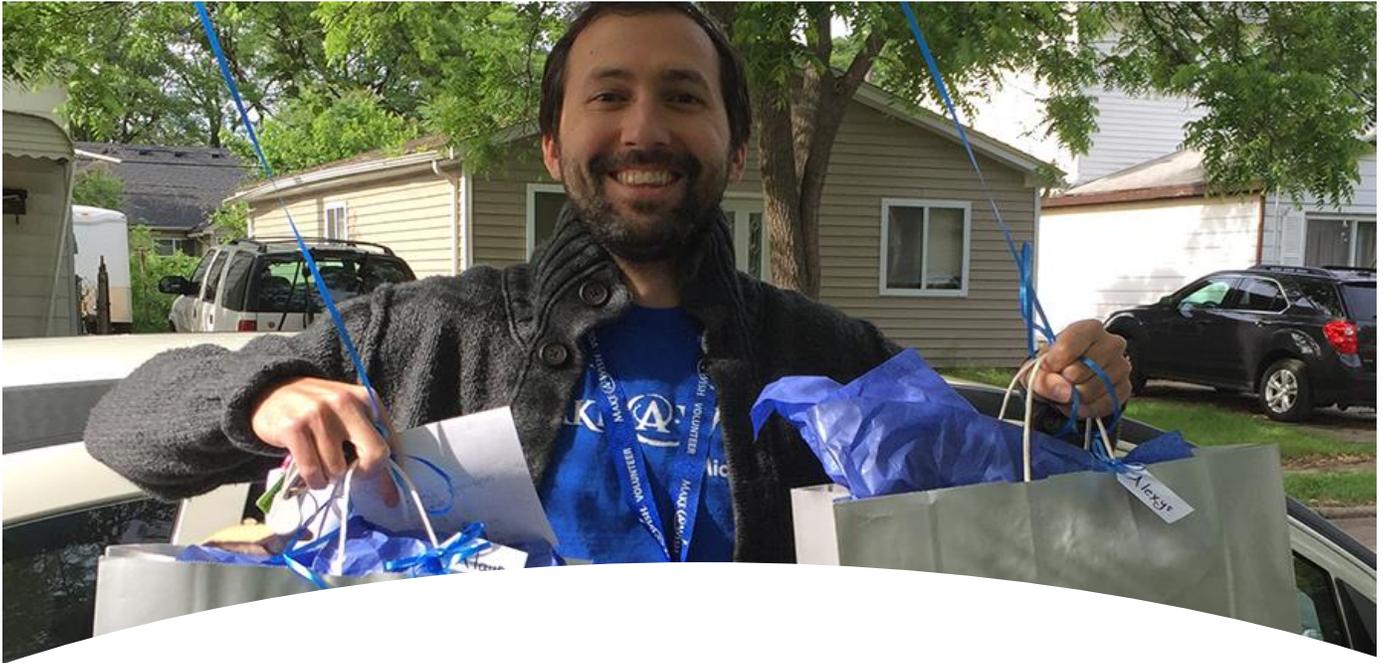
Make-A-Wish® strives to exceed the expectations of both the wish kid and wish family when granting a child's one true wish. Wish Boosts are thoughtful actions and goodies designed to deepen relationships and build anticipation throughout the Journey. Wish Boosts should celebrate the unique qualities of the Wish Child; they can be thematic to the child's wish and/or interests. Our goal is to make the wish kid and wish family feel extraordinarily special throughout the entire journey.

In order to create meaningful boosts, it is important to get to know each wish kid individually. Your wish-granting team will likely get several good ideas for boosts during the initial wish interview by paying close attention to the child's likes and dislikes. The information gathered during the initial wish interview should help your wish-granting team tailor boosts to the child's favorite things.

Planning boosts involves a fair amount of common sense and understanding your wish kid's preferences. A shy child might not appreciate a parade through town, while an outgoing child might love being the center of attention.

Examples of Wish Boosts at various times in the wish journey are provided in the following pages.





Ideas for Wish Boosts

These boosts are provided to the wish kid to build excitement throughout the wish process. These should be integrated into the communication plan you've developed with your wish-granting partner. We encourage you to communicate any wish boost ideas with chapter staff to confirm if resources are already available.



Make-A-Wish products (i.e., t-shirt, pens, bags, buttons, cups).



Emails, postcards or snail-mail letters to keep in touch with the child.



Scrapbook to keep memorabilia from the entire wish process.



Birthdays and holidays – don't forget your wish kid on these important days.



Balloon bouquets, flower arrangements or customized cookie designs (double-check there are no allergies first!).



Personalized gifts unique to your wish kid (i.e., arts and crafts, coloring books, puzzles, games, makeup, sports equipment, items with his/her favorite cartoon character, etc.).



Make-A-Wish "mailbox" where you can secretly deliver gifts from time to time.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL:

Along the way, you collect information about the child's likes and dislikes. Use this information to make the wish boost personalized to your wish child. For example, make sure the icing on the cake is the child's favorite color. Have the boost wrapped in the child's favorite color or ensure that the meal is from the child's favorite restaurant.

12 Months of Communication

January

Call and wish your wish kid and family a Happy New Year!

February

Send a Valentine's Day card to your wish kid letting him/her know that you LOVE being his/her volunteer!

March

Send the wish kid a few green items for St. Patrick's Day!

April

Call the wish kid wishing him/her a happy spring!

May

Send the child a packet of seeds to plant to watch them grow while he/she is waiting for the wish!

June

Call the wish kid and let him/her know you are thinking about him/her.

July

Wish the wish kid and family a happy Independence Day!

August

National Friendship Day – send a card letting your wish child know you are happy to know him/her!

September

Send your wish kid a back-to-school pack!

October

Send a candy pack to your wish kid for Halloween!
Make sure the parents/legal guardians are OK with it first.

November

Happy Thanksgiving! Call your wish kid and tell him/her how thankful you are to be the child's wish granter!

December

Send a holiday card to the family. Be respectful of any religious observations the family upholds.

*I wish to go to
Disneyland® Resort*
Tucker, 4
congenital heart disease



Ideas for the Countdown Celebration

Once the chapter has informed your wish-granting team that the wish has been scheduled, the countdown celebration would share that news with the family. Before this moment, the wish child may not know that exactly when his/her wish is happening!

- ★ Present a countdown calendar to help the child make the most of the anticipation of the wish. Countdown calendars could be an actual calendar that the child can cross days off, add stickers to each date, etc. It could also be a chain link calendar with facts about the destination on each slip of paper. Countdown calendars are great 20-30 days before the actual wish.
- ★ Send a themed box with items related to the wish.
- ★ Create a treasure or scavenger hunt with clues that lead to the announcement that the child's wish has officially been scheduled.
- ★ Make a puzzle that the child has to put together with the words "Your wish is being granted" on the pieces.
- ★ Deliver/mail a package filled with his/her favorite candy and confetti with a special note that the wish has been scheduled.
- ★ Send an e-card or video announcing the wish.
- ★ Deliver a "special" letter to the child.
- ★ Surprise the child at home with his/her favorite dinner or dessert.
- ★ Mail a note signed by the child's favorite cartoon character notifying him/her of the wish date!



*I wish to go on a
Mediterranean Cruise*

Lillian, 16
nervous system disorder



Ideas for the Wish Send-Off or Wish Day Celebration

For wishes that involve travel, the wish-granting team should plan a send-off to deliver Make-A-Wish buttons, luggage (if needed), and any other goodies you may have purchased or secured in-kind. This is a time to celebrate the wish journey prior to the wish being granted while building anticipation those final days leading up to their departure.

For all other wishes, you are encouraged to have a celebration to honor the wish experience prior to or on the day the wish is being granted. Often, this may mean hosting a small party at the family's home to deliver the wish itself. Either way, this party is typically intended for wish participants and the wish granters.

IDEAS FOR WISH REVEAL OR WISH DEPARTURE PARTY

- ★ Celebration cake depicting the child's favorite color, character or theme.
- ★ Enjoy the child's favorite food or host the celebration at his/her favorite restaurant.
- ★ Use a mystery box and wrap it in many layers to create anticipation for the actual wish item and/or itinerary.
- ★ New outfit to wear on the day of the wish.
- ★ Photo album or scrapbook to help preserve the memories.
- ★ Autograph book and markers/pens for all those special signatures.
- ★ Travel bag filled with maps of destination, travel books, journals, games to play in transit, disposable cameras for the kids and snacks.
- ★ Gift basket with items appropriate for destination, activities or season.



*I wish to see
the Northern Lights*

Ella, 11
cancer



BOOSTS CONTINUED:



- ★ Travel wishes daily surprises – send small enhancements with the wish child to be opened on each day of the wish.
- ★ Deliver the wish in a unique way – scavenger hunt, sports car, horseback, fire truck, etc.
- ★ Products featuring the wish kid's favorite musician, athlete or actor.
- ★ Purchase accessories to help complete the wish, i.e., alarm clocks, customized skin for a laptop, personal shopping bags, picture frames, etc.
- ★ Send the child and family to the movies while you complete the finishing touches for the wish party.
- ★ Order a meal for the family for when they get home from the wish experience.
- ★ Coordinate wish-appropriate lessons leading up to the wish experience.
- ★ Stock the limousine, if one is used, with goodies and treats for the ride.
- ★ Plan a phone call between the wish kid and his/her favorite cartoon character.
- ★ Coordinate with the parents/legal guardians to have the departure for the wish be a complete surprise to the wish kid.



*I wish to swim
with sharks*
Adrian, 9
cancer



Ideas for the Post-Wish Visit

This visit provides you with an opportunity to spend time with the wish kid and see how the wish went. Be sure to take photos to share with the chapter. For some wishes, a phone call may also be conducted if schedules do not allow a visit. Below are some ideas for post-wish enhancements:



Gift card to create a memory book from their wish.



Wish Candle: Light a candle and remind the wish kid that although the wish has been granted, he/she can continue believing in the power of wishes.



Host an ice cream social for the wish kid and family to tell you about the wish!



Picture albums.

