

# Friendship Gifts

Friendship gifts are a great way to build relationships with our Russian translators, workers, and other ministry contacts. Generally, our teams bring these gifts as a memory and thank you for their time. We do this instead of “tips” at the end of a trip.

Gifts of money or tips are discouraged by SAC. It could create an unhappy situation if one translator was given a tip from one group leader and another group leader gave no tip. The one who received the tip will be happy, but the one who did not will feel like they didn’t do a good job. Word will get out about a tip and so this has the potential to be perceived as unfair. Since we are about building relationships in Christ SAC feels it is better to give friendship gifts that are relatively even among everyone. SAC wants to ensure relationships are built and not torn down by perceptions of unfairness.

The SAC Friendship Gift Coordinator will organize and ensure SAC gift bags are taken on the Mission Trip. SAC will provide some “main” gifts to go into the bag. However, **it will be up to the individual trip participant to bring a few friendships gifts to the translator(s) that you have served with during the trip.** These gifts must fit into the small gift bag provided by SAC.

SAC may also prepare some gift bags for others that our team might contact like; staff workers at the ministry sites, hotel workers, and the directors of the ministry sites.

Below are a few ideas for friendship gifts. Remember to keep your gifts small and lightweight as you will pack these items in your personal suitcase! You are not limited to these ideas but these are things that have been brought in the past.

1. Nice pens
2. Christian music cassette tapes
3. Fancy soaps
4. Small desk clocks
5. Scarf
6. Photo frame 4x6
7. Photo album for 4x6 photos
8. Candy (non-melting)
9. Coffee mug (filled with candy!)
10. Diaries

Here are some important reminders when giving a Friendship Gift.

1. Choose a personal gift(s) that will remind them of you.
2. Choose gifts that are lightweight and will not be likely to break during transit.
3. Always give the gift privately and in person.
4. Gifts should be given on the last day of ministry or the end of the last day you will see them.
5. Resist any temptation to give money or tips.
6. Smile when you give the gift and show your appreciation! ☺