

A Very Thank-full Package

© Tara Crooks

Looking to create a harvest festival for your deployed soldier this November? Traditionally, November brings us Thanksgiving; a time to give thanks for the harvest and express gratitude in general. And who better to give thanks to than your soldier?

When your soldier is deployed on Thanksgiving you want him/her to feel the love and the family togetherness the holiday is known for but it can be difficult to do across the ocean. Don't despair! I have gathered the perfect ingredients to make your soldier's very "thank-full" care package.

Let's start with a Thanksgiving meal:

Canned turkey

Turkey jerky

Instant mashed potatoes

Potato chips

Box of stuffing

Homemade bread

Gravy in a jar

Pumpkin or apple pie

Can of corn

Green bean casserole (canned green beans, canned mushroom soup, fried onions, & powdered milk)

Can of cranberry sauce

Craisins (dried cranberries)

Sweet potato chips

Can of yams

Roasted pumpkin seeds

Candy corn

Apple cider or spiced tea

Pumpkin spice coffee creamer

Cookies (pumpkin, spice, or his/her favorite)

Pre-cooked rice

Then we'll spice up the package with some creativity:

Celebrate Thanksgiving early and video tape it from the chair that they usually sit in

Create a "why we are thankful for you" book

Pictures of Thanksgiving's past

Leaf rubbings done by you or your children

"Hand" turkeys made by you or your children

Pilgrims hat

Paper leaves

A printed story of the first Thanksgiving

A homemade CD of Thanksgiving songs (search the internet for some pretty funny ones)

Add a Thanksgiving poem to your package. Here's a great list to get you started:

<http://www.poemsource.com/thanksgiving-poems.html>.

Disney has some great ideas, recipes, crafts and more at

<http://familyfun.go.com/thanksgiving/thanksgiving-traditions/>.

Here's some Thanksgiving riddles:

<http://www.brownielocks.com/thanksgivingjokes.html> and some Thanksgiving coloring pages <http://coloringpages.net/thanksgiving.html>.

Whatever you do, have fun with it. Your soldier will be able to tell the love and joy that went into creating their package!