

Wish Celebration Planning Guide

As part of the magical wish journey that we strive to give each wish child and their family, every wish child will have a "**Wish Celebration**." As always, we would like you to tailor the delivery of each wish presentation to the child's favorites, likes, and interests.

We welcome you to use your creativity to make the wish celebration memorable. Please do not feel obligated to make big purchases or produce grand gestures. Use your wish child's **Wish Child Form** as a guide to arrange a wish delivery to celebrate the wish child. Most often, the most unforgettable moments can be found in the small, thoughtful details.

AS YOU PLAN THE DAY:

1. Please remember that regardless of the type of delivery, the reimbursable costs must not exceed what remains of your wish team's \$75 budget for the wish journey. You do not get any additional funding to plan this part of the wish experience. Your Wish Manager will let you know how much money is available for your celebration.
2. Avoid paying in full by asking for discounts or donations. Even with socially distanced or virtual wish presentations, the wish experience should remain exciting especially at the culmination of the wish journey. Remember to use your wish child's likes to direct your spending (for example, if a child doesn't like cake, don't buy a cake. If your wish child is a teenage boy, you may not need balloons and streamers, etc.).

We encourage you to ask local businesses for in-kind donations and discounts. Contact us for suggestions on how to make "the ask" or refer to in-kind donation information at [Volunteer Resources - Make-A-Wish® Eastern North Carolina](#). Contact your Wish Manager if you have questions or want to talk about a potential donation.

3. Work with your volunteer partner and the wish family to find a date and time that works best for delivery. Remember that celebrations for travel wishes should take place within 2 weeks of the travel date to ensure that the family receives the most up-to-date itinerary.
4. Consider cultural norms when planning your celebration. This includes types of food served, timing of the celebration, appropriate ways to celebrate, as well as culturally sensitive gifts. If you are unsure, ask the family what is most important for them.

WISH CELEBRATION CONSIDERATIONS:

Due to COVID-19 we now offer a variety of wish delivery options for the safety and comfort of everyone. However, it is still important to create tailored excitement for each child. Here are steps you should consider:

1. Ask the family for their preference on:

- Wish delivery- "virtual, in-person, or either"
- Mask wearing- "preferred or optional"

Let them know that you will plan the day based on their comfort level.

2. After you find out the family preference, consider the following ideas to move forward with planning:

• Virtual Options

- **Video Celebration:** Set a date and time to celebrate with your wish child via video call. Send fun party decorations and any wish boosts. Make sure the wish package will be arriving prior to the wish delivery.
- **Meal Delivery:** Coordinate a meal delivery for the wish child and their family to celebrate the wish coming to fruition.
- **Porch Drop Off:** Bring the joy of a wish celebration to your wish child's front door! Put together a special delivery to surprise your wish child at home- balloons, cake/ treats, décor. Add anything that would be a good fit for your wish child to include in the drop off!
- **Drive-by Celebration:** One/both wish granter(s) can drive by with signs, honking, decorated car, etc.! Get creative. You can encourage others to join in on the fun. An invitation to participate in a parade could be extended to family and friends. You could also contact the local police and/or fire department to ask if they could participate.

• In-person Options

- **At Home Wish Delivery:** Set a date and time to celebrate with your wish child at their home. Put together a celebration to surprise your wish child-balloons, cake/treats, décor. Add anything that would be a good fit for your wish child to cheer on the end of an exciting wish journey!
- **Restaurant Wish Delivery:** Using the wish child's favorites list, plan a wish delivery at a restaurant based on their favorite restaurants or favorite foods. Be sure that there is some time built into this meal to communicate about the wish details.
- **Wish Scavenger Hunt:** On wish day, plan a scavenger hunt for the wish child to take part in around their neighborhood/city, with the culmination of the wish being the wish reveal of their new wish item!
- **Consider the guest list:** Regardless of the type of celebration, ask the family who they would like to include in the event. Some prefer large celebrations and others may prefer to keep things more intimate. Keep in mind that costs may be affected by the number of participants.

These options are only suggestions. Feel free to use your own creativity and knowledge of the wish child to make the wish delivery special. Check out our private [Volunteer Facebook Page](#) for wish celebrations and photos to get more ideas. **Happy planning!**