



Kids' Treasure Tracker

WEEKLY YOUTH GIVEAWAYS TO FUEL A SUMMER OF NOURISHMENT AND JOY

Introduction

Summer meals provide an invaluable opportunity to bring joy and fun to kids and youth in your community. Creating an environment of joy and fun is essential for fostering a positive and engaging experience for kids and youth. Summer meal programs aren't just about providing meals—it's about offering a safe space where children can build memories, connect with their peers, and enjoy enriching activities. By incorporating fun elements, such as games, crafts, or themed events, we help combat the "summer slide," ensuring kids stay engaged, active, and excited about learning and being part of the community. Providing joy also encourages regular participation, which ensures children continue receiving nutritious meals throughout the summer.

In this resource, you'll find an Idea Bank filled with ideas bucketed by category. You can also find a sample planning template along with a fillable template.

Considerations

- **Giveaways require a budget for items and/or sponsor donations.** Many sites find success soliciting donations from local businesses, companies with a demonstrated commitment to child/youth programming, and educational organizations dedicated to providing students with school supplies.
- **Consider the age-appropriateness of giveaways.** What a toddler will be excited about will differ from what a middle school student will find desirable. You may choose to focus giveaways on certain age groups or offer a variety of giveaways for a wide spectrum of developmental ages.
- **Keep notes on which giveaways spark excitement and increase participation, even if that learning is anecdotal.** It's a great way to learn about what resonates and what you might want to invest in moving forward.

Idea Bank

Outdoor & Physical Activities

- "Fun day" with a bounce house or slip-n-slide
- Games at parks
- Water activities (e.g., water slide, sprinklers)
- Sports activities (e.g., frisbees, soccer balls)
- Outdoor movies and meals
- Neighborhood gatherings
- End of year outdoor celebration

Educational & Learning Activities

- Science experiments to take home
- Educational packets for new parents
- Nutrition education
- Local nature/plant guides
- "Animal encounter" activities with a zoo
- Educational toys
- "20 questions" quizzes
- Crosswords/word searches about food, nutrition, etc.

Social & Emotional Support

- Socialization time for kiddos
- Affirmations/words of encouragement for kids

Arts & Creative Expression

- Arts/crafts sets
- Coloring book/activity coloring sheets with crayons
- Meal bags with designs to color on
- Cartoons/comics
- Puzzles and trinkets
- Playdough
- Return coloring sheets to get a prize (or be in the newspaper!)

Food & Cooking

- Recipes for kids and adults to do together
- "How to make a sandwich" kit
- "Play restaurant" for home
- Play food/kitchen items for littles
- Options for food
- Let kids pick food items (rather than parents)

- Offer animal-shaped plates
- Scavenger hunt for different food groups
- Build-your-own experiences with ingredients
- Food in the shape of characters
- Colorful food groups
- Weekly fun dessert
- Community member recipes
- Opportunities for kids to assist in preparing meals

Gardening & Nature

- Growing garden kit to take home
- Gardening tools for home
- Seed packs
- Park picnic kits for families

Toys & Games

- Toys and trinkets
- Stuffed animals
- Fidget toys
- Puzzles
- Bubbles
- Balloons or mini-balloons

Parent & Family Resources

- Educational resources for parents
- Resources page of community activities
- Weekly newsletter with local events
- Partner with health department to share resources
- Toothbrushes and information about dental hygiene
- Support parents so they feel validation and appreciation

Special Events & Celebrations

- Event kick-off where sponsors can hand out start-of-summer information
- Birthday celebrations (with birthday hats and kazoos)
- Clown or mascot at meal pick-up
- Community event and holiday celebrations

Other Giveaways & Incentives

- Gift cards for older kids/youth
- Gooks for kids
- Giveaways in meal containers

- Fun packaging (e.g., stickers)
- If there's a wait or line, provide activities for kids while waiting

Sample Template

Week	Theme	Possible Giveaways
EVERY WEEK	—	- List of local community activities - Words of affirmation
June 3–7	Summer Kick-Off	- Summer gear Stainless steel water bottle Sunscreen Bubble wands
June 10–14	World Oceans Week	- Choice of ocean books NG's In The Ocean Florida Ocean Life Guide Over and Under the Waves Ocean Animals for Kids
June 17–21	Creative Minds	- Arts & crafts play/activities - Coloring books + crayons or colored pencils - Playdough (for littles)
June 24–28	Science Week	- Science play/activities Bug viewers Butterfly kit (for youth)
July 1–5	America's Birthday	- Independence Day gear American flag sunglasses American flag beach balls
July 8–12	Picnic & Games Week	- Picnic play/activities Picnic blanket - Book options for littles (I Can Eat a Rainbow or Eat Your Superpowers) - Puzzle option for youth (orange puzzle) Uno option for youth
July 15–19	Water Week	- Choice of water play/activities Foam water blasters Beach sand set (for littles)
July 22–26	Smiles Week	- Dental health resources - Toothbrushes - Toothpaste - Information about dental hygiene The Tooth Book (for littles)
July 29–Aug 2	Celebrating Florida	Choice of Florida books

		○ Only in Florida ○ Florida ○ F is for Florida ○ Celebrating Florida ○ The Young Naturalist's Guide to Florida
Aug 5–9	Edible Garden Week	● Edible garden resources ● Florida fruit + veg seeds ● Local pots + soil ● Kids gardening tools ● Seed Ball Kits

Fillable Template

Week	Theme	Possible Giveaways
EVERY WEEK		
Week [dates]		
Week [dates]		
Week [dates]		
Week [dates]		
Week [dates]		
Week [dates]		
Week [dates]		
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