



SAFARICARE BAGS

Helpful Tips and Suggested Lists

The following tips and lists have been developed to help SCI members get started with the delivery of healthcare and other necessary supplies when on safari in remote areas of the world.

Sources for this information include: first-hand reports from SCI members who have already delivered healthcare products to people in remote regions of the world; staff and committee interviews with a pharmacist from Africa; **Professional Hunters (PH)** from Africa and South America (at the annual SCI convention); and medical professionals (SCI members) on safari who have observed the lack of healthcare goods and services in remote areas.

Helpful Tips

Remember that you are going to a place where there may or may not be trained medical people, and they may or may not be able to read or understand instruction labels.

Discussions with your PH will alert you as to what items are “most appropriate” for the people in the area you will be visiting, supplies available for purchase “in country” and supplies you may have to bring, and update you on any current Customs issues.

Chapter and individual SCI members travel to common places for safaris. An ongoing list of targeted needs can be updated. Members can communicate experiences and pass along the information to the next chapter member(s) taking a SafariCare bag. Supplies can be stockpiled or located for future trips. Chapter systems tend to be creative, unique, and effective.

At present, airlines may charge significant fees for “extra” luggage. Most chapters “pass the hat” to cover the baggage costs. Some members are not affected by the additional costs. Other members creatively condense gear or cut back on “nice but not necessary items” and stay within the allowable luggage guidelines. Others, we are told, convince airline representatives (*with the help of a letter on SCIF stationery which I will provide upon request*) of the humanitarian nature of part of the trip, and have the “extra” fee waived. Better yet, ask your travel agent to intercede with the airlines, as they are usually on a first-name basis with airline employees. And finally, some members pack the SafariCare bag in their luggage and purchase supplies upon arrival, and are thus able to provide familiar, reasonably-priced local items. The bag is then filled and taken on safari for distribution. All these methods work. Find what works best for you or your chapter and do it. Just do it!

Recognition: All SCI members are encouraged to take photos and keep notes of their SafariCare experiences. Articles can then be developed for news stories in your local community and for publication in the quarterly Humanitarian Services newsletter, Safari Times, Safari magazine and the HS museum exhibit. Refer to the SCI Public Relations Handbook for assistance. **Hunters help save hunting when recognized for compassionate deeds - the present day application of our humanitarian heritage.**

SafariCare Bags: Suggested Working Lists of Items

Some items (non-outdated medicinal supplies) should be dispensed under supervision through established clinics or trained medical people in the village. For example, toothpaste may appear harmless, but some children may think it is candy and become ill from improper use. If misused, the medicines become dangerous. These items are considered "Schedule 2 – they can be bought over the counter in a pharmacy in South Africa...and should not be a problem at Customs." **Educational, recreational and basic quality of life items are also welcomed and appreciated.**

Clinically Supervised Items

Ibuprofen
First Aid Kits/Creams
Fungus Infection Creams
Eye/Ear Ointments/Cleansers
Upset Stomach Medicines
Diarrhea Medicines
Vitamins
Anti-itch Creams
Skin Rash Creams (cortisone)
Water Purification Tablets
Burn Ointments
Triple Antibiotic Ointments
Dehydration (salt) Tablets
Hydrogen peroxide*/Cotton
Toothpaste

Non-Supervised Items

Eyeglasses/Reading Glasses
Shoes/Socks/Sandals
Hats/Caps
Shirts/Jackets
Toothbrushes/Floss
Trash Bags
Water Filters/Purification Straws
Needles and Thread
Rope/Twine/String
Fish Hooks and Line
Antibacterial Soaps
Adhesive Bandages/Gauze
Plastic Bottles/Bowls/Cups
Disinfectants
Shampoo/Body Wash
Educational Flash Cards

School Supplies
Maps/Atlases/Dictionaryes
Pens/Pencils/Paper
Sports Equipment
Soccer Balls & Pumps
Mosquito Netting/Repellent
Chalk/Small Chalkboards
Cloth/Fabric
Crayons/Colored Pencils/Markers
Coloring/Activity Books
Scissors/Rulers
Pins: Straight/Safety
Toys
Candy
Bandanas
Backpacks

*(*should be packed in plastic bags and sealed, only considered if space and weight limitations in bag are not restrictive.)*

Gathering items has become a rewarding chapter, individual, school or family function with both members and non-members (ask about our new "**Sponsor a Blue Bag for SCI**" program for non-members) rallying to test their networking talents and connections in the community. Before long one bag is filled, then another and another, and so on. Based upon the success of the initial deliveries, more members take more supplies to more places, helping more people.

When on safari in a remote area, you are the only ambassador representing the hunting community. You arrive to hunt native wildlife. The image you leave is dependent upon the impression you make while visiting. **SafariCare is one way to leave a wonderful, lasting impression.** If you have a good experience, you and/or your friends will be returning. The people will remember your generosity. **A list of your supplies is required by the HS department. If Customs happens to call the HS department we can verify the list with them. This is to protect SCIF-HS from anyone trying to smuggle illegal items in the bag.**

To borrow or purchase one or more SCIF blue bags, please contact SCI Foundation Humanitarian Services Manager Eva Wilson at 520/620-1220, Ext. 480; ewilson@safariclub.org.

