



Welcoming and Serving Seafarers of the World Since 1946
Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate

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August 19, 2019

Dear SMGG Friends,

Tis the beginning of the Spirit of "Christmas at Sea" in the Port of Oakland. Each year at this time we invite you to begin to gather items for Ditty Bags so that the Seafarers can receive gifts and be remembered during the Christmas season. Seafarers are especially grateful for the knitted caps and scarves you make, as the sea can be cold year round.

Christmas is a time for us to live into Christ's calling for us, in caring for the stranger. Your contributions make this happen. An updated list of items we pack in our Ditty Bags is included on the back side of this letter. You will find our Christmas at Sea manual detailing knitting patterns and other valuable information on our website www.smgg.org.

Christmas at Sea Packing Day

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday November 16th, 2019 at 10:00 A.M

IMC 4001 7th Street, Oakland (near Port View Park)

Please plan to come join us for lunch and ditty bag packing! Help us share the gift of Christmas with seafarers. *Please RSVP for lunch and packing day* to revnancy@revnancy.net

If you wish to donate gifts by mail please mail them to arrive at the IMC by Friday November 15th. You can drop your gifts off at the ABWM Fall Meeting or you may also call us at (510) 839-2226 to arrange a pick up of the gifts.

On behalf of the board, and volunteers of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate we want to thank you for all that you do for the seafarers. Seafarers are away from the home and family for between six and nine months at a time. They truly appreciate the gifts that you give to them every year and all of the hard work that goes into getting everything ready to go on the ships.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy B. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Nancy B. Smith
SMGG Chairperson

Suggested Items for Christmas Gifts for Ditty Bags

Toiletries

Tooth Paste	Bar Soap
Tooth Brush	Deodorant
Nail Clipper	Hand Lotion
Razors	Chap Stick
Small First Aid Kit	Shaving Cream (no cans)

Please use travel size only, NO SUPERSIZED items and no hotel shampoos

Ditty bags need to weigh under 2.0 lbs each.

Other Items

Warm gloves and/or socks

Knitted Caps/Scarves -Use pattern available at SMGG.ORG

Travel Size Games or Cards (something fun to play with); sudoku puzzle books
Sewing Kits - (i.e. buttons, thread and needle. Place items in a small medicine bottle.)
Any similar new items that would be appropriate.

Listed below are things to remember in preparing gifts for Christmas at Sea:

Yes for Gifts:

Please use prescribed guidelines for gifts found above for uniformity of gifts.

Use directions at smgg.org for knitting hats and scarves

Seafarers especially appreciate the watch caps and helmets.

Use patterns at smgg.org for mending kits and ditty bags.

We recommend that A Ditty Bag have a value of at least \$5.00 and include toiletries, an item of clothing, a *game or toy* suitable for an adult, a sewing kit and one other item.

Place gifts inside a Ditty Bag. List the contents of the bag.

We add Christmas cards, prayers and biblical literature, and candy to each ditty bag.

You can also enclose a personal Christmas Card.

“No’s” for Gifts:

No used items, please! Remember, we want these gifts to show our love for Christ.

Please do not fill Ditty Bags with contents weighing more than 2.0 pounds.

We carry 25 gifts on board a ship at a time, sometimes up to 75 steps of the gangway.

Heavy bags make this a tough task even for young seafarers.

Please do not wrap gifts.

Unwrapped gifts are easier for us to pack.

All gifts not already in Ditty Bags will be placed in Ditty Bags on packing day.

Please do not give gifts for specifically for women seafarers.

We very rarely see women seafarers during the Christmas.