



from HOMELESS to HOPEFUL

Tips for Assembling Toiletry Kits for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Nearly 2,000 youth visit YouthLink's drop-in center each year, where they can receive basic needs like personal care items, clothing, laundry facilities, a shower, and a hot meal.

- Toiletry Kits should include the following **travel-size** items:
 - Shampoo*
 - Conditioner
 - Body wash/ Soap**
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrush
 - Deodorant (full-size ok)
- Additional donations can be added if they fit within this category, including:
 - Lotion/moisturizer
 - Wet wipes
 - Dental floss
 - Chapstick
 - Menstrual hygiene
 - Razor and/or shaving cream
 - Band-aids
 - Q-tips
 - Nail Clippers
 - Foot powder
 - Hairbrush/ Comb
 - Individual Tissue Pack
 - Hair Ties

* About 75% of youth served identify as BIPOC or Black/African American. Hair products suited for curly, textured, coily/4c, natural hair are preferred. We realize it can be difficult to find travel-sized of these products, so full-sized are ok if they reasonably fit into a gallon-size bag.

** Body wash is preferred to bar soap. It's easier to pack up and take along between uses and less likely to be thrown out after single use.

- NO MOUTHWASH, please (it can be triggering to folks suffering with alcohol issues due to high alcohol content and can be abused)
- Clear, gallon size zip-loc bags are ideal for storage and easy distribution (and youth typically reuse them), but we are also open to reusable bags or pouches.
- Reach out to us at donations@youthlinkmn.org or 612-252-1280 for questions and to arrange a donation drop-off time/day.

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