



MISSION Olympics

Blast Camp Mission Olympics uses the Olympic theme to help us understand ways we can help the people of the world—near and far—through mission. Here's a little secret (well, probably not really so secret)—when we do a service project together at Blast Camp it is so much fun and so rewarding. We are super sad that we can't be working on a big project together this summer, but we know that each of you can choose a way (or ways) to serve and feel connected to God and all your Blast Camp friends. Need suggestions? We've got some for you.

Serve Your Family

You don't have to look far to find a way to serve others. You can start right at home: make dinner, clean your room, do an extra chore without being asked, spend time with a younger sibling. We know you have lots of other ideas for caring for the people in your family.

Spread Joy

Letting people know you care—especially during this time of social isolation—is certainly part of loving our neighbors. Some ideas:

- Send a card or letter to someone who is living alone. You can contact the Church Office for a list of people who would love to hear from you.
- Use sidewalk chalk to write an inspiring message on a neighbor's sidewalk or driveway.
- Record a fun message (tell a joke, sing a song, do a dance, or just say hello) and send it to a family member you have not seen for a while.

Offer Hands-on Help

Outdoor projects are a great (and social-distancing safe) way to serve others. Check with neighbors to see if they need help with raking, pulling weeds, etc. Contact the Church Office for a list of seniors who may need some help or to volunteer at the Common Ground Garden that raises food for PRC.

Serve by Giving Generously

You may already have a favorite organization that helps people in need. Consider contributing some of your allowance or birthday money or ask your parents about a "chores for change" day. If you need some ideas for where to give, you will find a list on our website of the missions that Gary Church supports. Just go to garychurch.org/missions to find both local and global organizations and links to their websites.

Gold Medal Challenge

At Blast Camp Mission Olympics, we do a mission project each day. During the week of June 15–19, challenge yourself to do the same—bringing an Olympic-like determination to serving others. We'd love to see your projects. Send your pictures to office@garychurch.org. We'll share them on the Gary Youth Facebook page and in our newsletter.





We are confident that you, Blast Campers, can bring the Olympic spirit to your own backyard. Maybe you would just like to set up one game and have your family compete. If so, here's an idea.

Create an obstacle course by setting out hula-hoops, jump ropes, blankets, and whatever you've got. Time each athlete as he/she runs the course. The best time wins!

Or maybe you have your sights on something bigger—a whole series of activities (sort of like a heptathlon or decathlon). If that's what you have in mind, here are some suggestions.

Pre-game

Have each competitor (or team if you have enough people in your family) choose a name and come up with a uniform such as the same color shirts, hats, or bandanas, etc. You could even create a team flag.

Game Time

Three-legged Race: Everyone picks a partner and stands side-by-side. Use a bandana, scarf, or piece of fabric to tie the inside legs of each person in the pair together to create the "third leg." Mark your start and finish lines and go! (For a fun water variation, give each pair a cup. They have to race to a bucket filled with water, fill their cup, bring it back, and pour the water into an empty bucket. First pair to fill their bucket wins.)

Wheelbarrow Race: You need partners for this one too. Partner 1 stands and holds the ankles of Partner 2. Partner 2 walks on his/her hands. Mark a turnaround point. When the pair reaches that point, they switch spots and race back to the start line.

Fill the Bucket Relay: Put a bucket of water at the starting line. Put one empty bucket for each team at the finish line. Teams line up and take turns filling up their cup from the full bucket and dumping it into their empty bucket. When the starting-line bucket is empty, the team with the most water in their finish-line bucket wins. (If you don't want to use water, try the classic egg-on-a-spoon relay.)

Drop the Ball Relay: Each team lines up at one end and gets a small ball such as a tennis ball. At the other end, place a bucket for each team. The first member of each team must put the ball between his/her knees, run to the bucket, and drop the ball in it without using hands. Then pick up the ball, run back, and give it to the next teammate. First team to have every teammate get the ball in the bucket wins.

Overhead Relay: Each team stands in a single-file line. Place a bucket of water at the head of each line and an empty bucket at the end. Give a sponge to the person at the head of the line. That person dips the sponge in the water and then passes the wet sponge OVER THEIR HEAD to the next person. Continue until the sponge gets to the end of the line. That person must squeeze whatever water is left into the bucket, run the sponge back to the head of the line, dip it in the water, and pass it overhead to the next person. After every team member has gone, measure the water in the bucket. The team with the most water in their bucket wins.

Postgame Celebration

You can award winners for each game or keep track of points throughout and declare one team the victors at the end. No gold, silver, and bronze medals available at your house? No worries. You could make a crown for the victor(s) or let them choose what to have for dinner, pick the next movie, etc. Just have fun!