

## OCONUS PCS: Accompanied Baggage Packing Suggestions

Here is what we will be including in our checked luggage and carryon items. Remember that the items that travel with you might be all you have for a week (or a whole lot longer).

### Carry-on

1. **Folder with important documents.** Bring originals and extra copies of birth certificates or adoption paperwork, passports, official orders, marriage certificate, Social Security cards, medical and dental records, your packing inventory sheets, school files, important phone numbers and pet documentation (if traveling with a pet).
2. **Entertainment.** Books, tablets, laptops, portable DVD and MP3 players, headphones and plenty of items to occupy kids if you have them.
3. **Foreign currency.**
4. **Snacks.** Be sure to carry [approved snacks](#) only, and store them together in order to quickly remove them during your security screening.
5. **Anything required for medical needs.**

### Checked baggage

1. **Clothing and shoes.** I plan to bring each family member two weeks-worth of clothing in case we are without our express shipment an extended period of time. Be sure to check the climate where you're going to pack accordingly. I am also bringing a few shoe options for everyone (flip flops, sandals, athletic shoes, etc.) and swimsuits.
2. **Toiletries.** Items like makeup, deodorant, toothbrushes and paste, hair tools (straightener, hair dryer, etc.), and small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and soap are worth packing since you don't know if you'll be able to get to the store before you get a much-needed shower after arrival.
3. **Uniforms.** Your service member won't need the whole uniform wardrobe, but bring whatever is required for check-in and daily operations.
4. **Minimal household items.** With the huge baggage allowance, there is plenty of room to bring a few comforts from home to hold you over should your express shipment be delayed. I plan to bring:
  - a. A few dishrags and hand towels
  - b. An oven mitt
  - c. One towel and washcloth for each family member
  - d. One set of sheets and a mattress cover for each bed (loaner beds may be provided when you get out of temporary lodging and into your house, but sheets usually are not)
  - e. Blankets (for bedding)
  - f. A shower curtain liner
  - g. Night lights
  - h. A few small toys for each child
  - i. Anything you will need right away for pets (you might also see if your sponsor can pick up food, cat litter or whatever else you may need)
  - j. Car seats

- k. Any cords and chargers you will need for your hand-carried electronic devices (note that if you are not living in base housing, you may need voltage adaptors)

A good friend who recently moved overseas gave me a tip worth sharing: Pack a little bit of each family member's clothing in each suitcase. That way, if a bag goes missing everybody will still have something clean to wear!