Fresh Start Backpack Packing Tips:

1. We prefer that you use full-sized items – not travel sized. Dollar Tree is a great place to shop.

2. Tape all the shampoo/bodywash bottles closed with tape.

3. Purchase 2-gallon Ziplock bags – one for each backpack. We put all the toiletry items in this bag. Then we place that in the backpack, and then add the towel, the socks, and the water bottle.

4. If you would like to add your church information or an encouraging note, you are welcome to do so. Please put these items in the front pocket on the backpack.
    a. Other than that, we ask that you don't add things that are not on the list.

5. Most of our backpacks are received by men. There are a few young women who receive them when they are released from the Youth Correction Center – Pastor Gail Hagerty from Heart River Lutheran and Heart River Bridges of Hope usually adds appropriate items to these backpacks. She uses less than 20 per year. So please make your backpacks for men.
    a. If you already collected items and have items for women, we can still find a way to use them.

6. Please do not give us incomplete backpacks (backpacks with just a few items in them). If you have leftover supplies and backpacks, we will take them. It is just easier for us to keep track of them if you just give them to us loose.

7. You can choose to pack or just get us all the items. We also take financial donations.

8. You can bring your backpacks, loose items, or financial donations to Trinity Lutheran. The prison contacts us once a month, and then we distribute. Please do not deliver your bags to the prison.

9. If you have other questions, please contact Pastor Martha HarriSon at harrison@trinitybismarck.com or 701-833-1701.