Silent Auction Basket Ideas

Pamper Mom
Suggested items: Bubble bath, bath salts, towels, candles, a CD of meditative music, gift card to a local salon and/or for a massage.
Creative twist: Make the container part of the pampering—use a foot bath or a pretty basket suitable for keeping personal items.

For the Golfers
Suggested items: Tees, golf balls, visor, gloves, book about golf, a gift card to a golf store or to a local course.
Creative twist: Present the items in a sports bag.

Grillers’ Delight
Suggested items: Utensils, marinades, mitts, charcoal, cookbooks about grilling.
Creative twist: Use a small grill as the basket.

Baby Love
Suggested items: Diapers, diaper bag, onesies, burp cloths, infant toys, board books, teething rings, baby socks, bibs.
Creative twist: Present the items in a baby bathtub.

For a Book Club
Suggested items: A few bestselling books, wine glasses, wine, gourmet snacks, gift card to local bookstore or Amazon.com.
Creative twist: Assemble the items in a pretty book bag.

Outdoor Adventures
Suggested items: Sleeping bag, fishing pole, mini lanterns, fixings for s’mores (graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate), head lamps, bug spray, citronella candles, gift cards to outdoor stores.
Creative twist: Pack the contents into a cooler or a tent.

Movie Night at Home
Suggested items: Boxes of candy and microwave popcorn, DVDs, movie passes, blankets, store gift cards (for DVDs and snacks).
Creative twist: Include restaurant gift cards so families can order takeout dinners as part of their night.

Italian Dinner Night
Suggested items: High-end pastas, a variety of sauces, Italian bread/bread sticks, Parmesan cheese, a bottle of red wine, and gift cards to an Italian deli and local Italian restaurant.
Creative twist: Present the items in a large pasta bowl.

For Gardeners
Suggested items: Garden store gift card, planters, watering cans, gloves, seeds, sunscreen, hand lotion, bags of soil, garden rack.
Creative twist: Pack the contents into a small garden cart (available at gardening stores or large stores like Walmart).

For the Dogs (or Cats)
Suggested items: Gift card to a pet store, dog (or cat) toys, dog (or cat) food bowls, pet jersey or sweater, shampoo
and other grooming supplies, a leash.
Creative twist: Assemble the contents into a dog or cat bed.

Arts and Crafts
Suggested items: Markers, pens, colored pencils, crayons, craft paint, construction paper, paint brushes, stamping kit, jewelry kits, small wooden model kits, loom bracelet kit, poster board, gift card to craft store.
Creative twist: Present the items in a portable three-drawer storage cart.

Summer Fun
Suggested items: Beach towels, beach toys, balls, sunblock, sunglasses, gift cards to mini golf or other summer activities, yard toys (Frisbee, plastic bowling pins), bubbles, sidewalk chalk.
Creative twist: Present the items in a small outdoor sandbox.

Baking With Kids
Suggested contents: Baking mixes (muffins, cakes, cookies), frosting, baking with kids cookbook, aprons, kids’ mixing utensils, measuring cups, cookie cutters, decorating supplies.
Creative twist: Display the items in a large mixing bowl.

Local Errands
Suggested contents: Gift cards for conveniences or attractions in your community like dry cleaning, grocery store, coffee shop, movie theater, restaurants, hair salon/barber shop, etc.
Creative twist: Make the idea of errands seem more fun by arranging a “chauffeur”—a volunteer driver for a few hours on a weekend—as part of the prize.

Local Vendors
Suggested contents: Products from local vendors like baked goods, soap, jewelry, candles, and scarves (or other knitted creations).
Creative twist: Ask a local vendor to give a private tour to the winner. Kids would probably like going behind the scenes at the bakery or candle factory and seeing how they work.

Quick Hits

Team spirit: a few theme items for a popular baseball or football team, if you have one in your area, and tickets to a game
Coffee: different varieties of coffee, and gift cards to local coffee shops
Chocolate: boxes of chocolate and samplings of loose chocolates, gift cards to a candy/chocolate shop
Favorite kids’ books: ask your school’s teachers to contribute to this one by choosing their favorite classic
Legos: different sets of Legos, gift card to Lego store
Superheroes: action figures, DVDs, games
Cookies: different varieties of cookies, a cookbook of cookie recipes
Ice cream social: ice cream dishes, sauces, sprinkles and other assorted toppings, gift card to local grocery store, gift card to ice cream shop
Themed toys/games/books: for example, all princess, all pirate, etc.
Knitting fun: yarn, needles, mini tape measure, stitch markers, gift card to yarn shop