



Cooperative Program Baseball

(A learning activity for older children, youth, and adults)

A fun way to learn about the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists is to play “Cooperative Program Baseball.” Use the following rules to play this game.

1. The game is designed to be played indoors.
2. The game can be played with adults, youth, and older children. Divide into two teams.
3. To prepare for the game all players should spend some time studying the “Cooperative Program Facts” listed on page 2. Questions (pitches) and answers (hits) will be based on these facts. When a team is not “up to bat” they may be studying the facts. This will make the game move more quickly and will give players the satisfaction of getting more “hits.”
4. When the players have a wide age range, be sure that ages are equally distributed between both teams.
5. The playing area is arranged like a miniature baseball diamond. The player takes his place at home plate to answer the question. Players get on base and advance as in regular baseball. The leader or a person from the opposing team will ask the questions.
6. Players can request a single, double, triple, or home run. If players call for a single, they must answer one question correctly before they get a “hit.” If they request a double, they must answer two questions correctly or they are out. The same rule applies for a triple (three correct answers) or a home run (four correct answers).
7. The batter has 20 seconds to answer each question and must answer all the questions called for or they are out. Three outs and the teams change sides.
8. If a batter misses the question, the next batter is asked the same question. This process continues until the question is answered correctly. The leader asks the questions in sequence until all questions are completed. The pitcher then starts through the questions again until the game is stopped.
9. No hints or suggestions can be given from the sidelines. However, teams are encouraged to cheer for players who have just made a hit. This will help build team spirit.
10. To add excitement to the game, determine before the game begins if players may have a “sacrifice out.” In a sacrifice out, a player on third may score if the batter answers the question correctly but takes an out.
11. The length of the game may be determined by the number of innings to be played or by a time limit. When the game is played with a time limit, the final score is determined by the last full inning of play.

Cooperative Program Facts

1. The motive of the Cooperative Program goes back to the New Testament. Jesus told his followers to take his message of salvation to the whole world.
2. Early Baptists had little mission work going on. Most offerings were for local objects, such as the pastor's salary and building upkeep. Then William Carey in England led Baptists to start the first overseas mission program.
3. Baptists soon supported mission agencies and institutions. Agents solicited funds from local churches, but the one with the greatest emotional appeal usually got the most money.
4. Southern Baptists adopted one of the great characters of their destiny, the Cooperative Program in May 1925, during their annual convention in Memphis, Tennessee.
5. States were asked to cooperate. Agencies and boards were requested not to conduct special fund-raising campaigns; designated giving was discouraged. A new day had begun for Southern Baptists.
6. The work of the *International Mission Board*, with its more than 5,100 missionaries working with more than 1,170 people groups, and the work of the *North American Mission Board* with 5,153 missionaries who are committed to sharing Christ throughout the U.S., Canada, and the U.S. territories, are supported through the Cooperative Program.
7. The Cooperative Program supports six seminaries: *Golden Gate, CA; Midwestern, MO; New Orleans, LA; Southeastern, NC; Southern, KY; and Southwestern, TX.*
8. The *Christian Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission* helps Baptists become more aware of the ethical and moral implications of the gospel.
9. The *SBC Executive Committee* is made up of pastors and laypeople elected from all states related to the Southern Baptist Convention; and it carries out the instructions of the Convention, including the distribution of SBC Cooperative Program funds to the agencies.
10. Guidestone serves more than 175,000 people worldwide through its retirement and relief programs.
11. The ministries of the *South Carolina Baptist Convention* and other state conventions depend on Cooperative Program funds.
12. State papers, like "*The Baptist Courier*," inform Baptists about mission causes and are supported through state Cooperative Program funds.
13. In South Carolina, college students were provided opportunities for higher education in a Christ-centered environment at three Baptist colleges: *Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, and North Greenville University.*
14. The Cooperative Program supports the many children cared for by the *Connie Maxwell Children's Home.*
15. Through Cooperative Program gifts, *SC Baptist Ministries for the Aging* was able to operate two homes (*Bethea Baptist Retirement Community* and *Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Center*) to care for hundreds of deserving, frail, and elderly in need of a Christian home.
16. The Cooperative Program has broadened the view of Southern Baptists by enabling them to see all the causes they support, instead of just a few.
17. The Cooperative Program assures fair distribution of funds to all causes. Funds are allocated according to need and by vote of the people. Agencies can plan ahead because they know how much money is being allocated to their ministry.
18. The Cooperative Program keeps up with Southern Baptist progress. Since 1925, Cooperative Program receipts have multiplied many times.
19. The Cooperative Program enables your church to partner with thousands of other churches in fulfilling the mission of the church.
20. The Cooperative Program helps you to fulfill a part of your responsibility as a missionary by enabling you to participate in every Southern Baptist mission cause.
21. Almost 83 years later, the Cooperative Program has become the most expansive, efficient, and effective way of reaching people and supporting missions.

Cooperative Program Questions and Answers

(For use with Cooperative Program Baseball or Football)

1. The motive for the Cooperative Program goes back to what? (**Answer:** *The New Testament.*)
2. Where did Jesus tell his followers to take the message of salvation? (**Answer:** *To the whole world.*)
3. In what did Baptists have little participation? (**Answer:** *Mission work.*)
4. For what were offerings of early Baptists used? (**Answer:** *Pastor's Salary, building upkeep, and local projects.*)
5. Who led Baptists to start the first overseas mission work? (**Answer:** *William Carey.*)
6. How did early Baptist mission agencies secure funds for their ministry? (**Answer:** *Agents from each agency solicited funds from local churches.*)
7. Which agencies usually received the most funds? (**Answer:** *Those with the greatest emotional appeal.*)
8. When did Southern Baptists adopt the Cooperative Program? (**Answer:** *May 1925.*)
9. In what city and state was the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting held when the Cooperative Program was founded? (**Answer:** *Memphis, Tennessee.*)
10. What were Southern Baptist agencies requested not to do after the Cooperative Program was started? (**Answer:** *They were asked not to conduct special fund-raising campaigns.*)

CONVENTION-WIDE CAUSES AND THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

11. Which Southern Baptist agency has more than 5,100 missionaries working with more than 1,170 people groups? (**Answer:** *International Mission Board.*)
12. The *North American Mission Board* has approximately how many missionaries? (**Answer:** *5,153 missionaries.*)
13. There are how many Southern Baptist seminaries? (**Answer:** *Six.*)
14. What is the purpose of *The Christian Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission*? (**Answer:** *To help Baptists become more aware of the ethical and moral implications of the gospel.*)
15. What is the purpose of the *SBC Executive Committee* which is made up of pastors and laypeople? (**Answer:** *It carries out all of the instructions of the Convention, including recommending the division of SBC Cooperative Program funds among the agencies.*)
16. Which Cooperative Program agency serves 145,000 people worldwide through retirement and relief programs. (**Answer:** *Guidestone.*)

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SUPPORTS WORK IN STATE CONVENTIONS

17. What funds the ministries of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and other state conventions? (**Answer:** *The Cooperative Program.*)
18. What is the purpose of state papers, like *The Baptist Courier*? (**Answer:** *They inform Baptists.*)
19. How many Baptists colleges are there in South Carolina? (**Answer:** *Three.*)
20. What is the name of the children's home in South Carolina that cares for many children? (**Answer:** *Connie Maxwell.*)
21. How many retirement homes does the *SC Baptist Ministries for the Aging* operate? (**Answer:** *Two.*)

THE SUCCESS OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

22. How has the Cooperative Program broadened the view of Southern Baptists? (**Answer:** *By enabling them to see all the causes they support, instead of just a few.*)
23. In addition to distributing funds to all Southern Baptist agencies according to need, how else has the Cooperative Program helped the agencies? (**Answer:** *They can plan ahead because they know how much money they will receive each year.*)
24. Since 1925 Cooperative Program funds have _____ many times. (**Answer:** *Multiplied.*)
25. What does the Cooperative Program enable your church to do? (**Answer:** *To partner with other Southern Baptist churches in fulfilling its world mission.*)
26. How does the Cooperative Program help you to fulfill a part of your responsibility as a missionary? (**Answer:** *By enabling each church member to participate in every Southern Baptist mission cause.*)
27. Almost 83 years later, the Cooperative Program has become the most _____, _____, and _____ way of reaching people and supporting missions. (**Answer:** *expansive, efficient, effective.*)