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Satisfy your guests with timeless favorites

When the holidays come around and you're looking for a menu to please your guests, stick to time-honored classics to ensure everyone goes home happy. For a spread that's sure to shine, start with a Baked Honey Ham complemented the main course. Then, once the evening starts to wind down, break out a dazzling dessert like Peanut Butter Cookie Dough Chocolate Cheesecake. Find more dishes for holiday entertaining at Culinary.net.

HONEY HOLIDAY

Center your family's holiday meal around a traditional classic with this Baked Honey Ham. With a simple sauce to top it off, this main dish can dazzle any crowd. Find more honey-based recipes at honey.com.

■ Baked Honey Ham

Recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board

Servings: 12

1 tablespoon flour

1 oven cooking bag

1 bone-in, fully cooked ham (about 6 pounds)

16 ounces honey

4 teaspoons lemon pepper

2 teaspoons rosemary or thyme, crushed

Honey Sauce:



water

1/2 cup white wine

Heat oven to 325 F.

Place flour in roasting bag and shake to coat inside surface. Place ham in floured bag. Combine honey, lemon pepper and

rosemary; pour over ham and close bag

with twist tie. With fork, poke holes in top

of bag. Roast ham 1-1 1/2 hours, or until

slightly browned. Remove from oven; let

stand 10 minutes. Cut bag and remove ham,

following bag manufacturer's directions. ▶

Reserve drippings for sauce. To make Honey Sauce: Strain drippings and measure; add enough water to equal 2 cups. Add white wine and bring to boil. Serve with ham.

■ **White Wine Glazed Carrots**

Recipe courtesy of Deutsch Family and the World Wine Guys, authors of "Red Wine"

- 6 medium carrots, halved lengthwise and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons Barone Fini Pinot Grigio
- salt & pepper to taste



In large skillet, combine carrots and olive oil; add water. Cook over medium-high heat until carrots are tender. Add honey and white wine; cook and stir 2 minutes until carrots are glazed.

■ **Peanut Butter Cookie Dough Chocolate Cheesecake**

Recipe courtesy of Nestlé

- Prep time: 20 minutes
- Total time: 5 hours, 25 minutes
- Servings: 16

- 1 cup (16-18 crackers) round snack crackers, finely crushed
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels, divided
- 4 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 package (16 ounces) Nestlé Toll House Refrigerated Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookie Bar Dough

Heat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, combine cracker crumbs, pecans and butter; mix well. Press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Bake 8 minutes.



Place 1 2/3 cups morsels in medium, microwave-safe dish. Microwave on high 1 minute; stir. If necessary, microwave at additional 10-15-second intervals, stirring just until smooth. In large mixer bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar about 3 minutes, or until completely smooth and creamy. Beat in eggs one at

a time, beating well after each addition. Fold melted chocolate into cream cheese mixture and continue folding until mixture is uniform in color.

Spoon approximately 1/3 cream cheese mixture into springform pan; spread mixture evenly over crust. Cut 10 cookie dough bar squares in half; roll into balls. Place 12 dough balls about 1 inch from outer edge, six in middle and two in center. Spoon remaining batter gently over dough balls; smooth down top.

Bake 45 minutes, or until edge is set but center still moves slightly. Refrigerate at least 4 hours, or overnight. Cut remaining cookie dough squares in half; roll into balls. Bake to desired doneness. Melt remaining morsels and spread or drizzle over top of cheesecake. Garnish each cheesecake slice with cookie, or crumble cookies and sprinkle around edge of cheesecake.

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Holiday havoc? Consider it handled

The holiday season is full of magic and wonder - until your flight gets cancelled, your budget is blown and you fall ill at the worst possible time. Fortunately, staying merry despite common holiday conundrums is easier than you think with the right attitude and a few simple steps.

Here are some of the most notorious holiday hurdles, with practical advice for overcoming them and enjoying the best of the season.

▪ **Holiday hang-up: Blown budget**

The holidays can get expensive fast. Buying something for everyone on your list shouldn't put you in debt. Instead, think outside the box.

Solution: Organize a gift exchange where each person draws one name and buys one gift. Additionally, consider homemade gifts to cut costs, as well as experiences, like taking kids sledding or ice skating.

▪ **Holiday hang-up: Kids get the "gimmies"**

Commercialism runs high during the holiday season. Kids' wish lists seem to grow with each passing day. You want them to focus on the "season of giving" and they want to focus on "the season of getting."

Solution: Show kids how good it feels to give back. There are many ways to help those in need, especially around the holidays. Try volunteering at a local nonprofit, donating gifts to a local shelter or assisting an elderly neighbor by shoveling their driveway. Be sure to encourage your kids to participate, too!

▪ **Holiday hang-up: Travel problems**

Whether it's a missed connection, delayed flight or the weather is too bad to drive, travel is difficult during the holiday season.

Solution: If you're stuck at home, make the best of it with a staycation. Sleep in, make yourself a big breakfast and do all the things you never get to do. Explore the fun that's available in your hometown, whether that's a trip to the museum or

splurging on tickets to the local theater. Spontaneous adventures can be some of the most memorable!

▪ **Holiday hang-up: You burned the food**

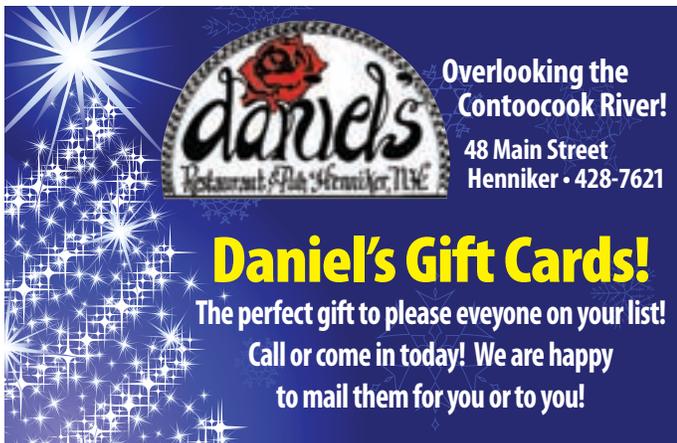
Did you mess up Grandma's famous apple pie? Do your gingerbread men look a little deranged? Are your kids concerned that Santa will refuse your holiday cookies? Kitchen fails happen to even the most skilled chefs.

Solution: Always have a backup. An extra store-bought pie or cookies in the cupboard provide peace of mind. Plus, during the holiday crunch, avoid trying new recipes. Best to stick to tried-and-true for the best shot at success.

▪ **Holiday hang-up: Unexpected party guests**

When your cousin RSVP'd for one but ended up bringing his new girlfriend, there's no need to panic. Unexpected holiday guests can put you in a tailspin, but being flexible is all part of a memorable holiday adventure.

Solution: Don't stress! Now is a good ▶



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in planes and trains to loved ones gathering under one room for festivities, it's no surprise that germs are rampant during the holidays. Germs are not a gift anyone wants to receive and they can quickly strip a joyous occasion of all its fun. In fact, a recent survey found that 68 percent of people have been sick and miserable during holiday gatherings and 24 percent have had a holiday gathering ruined because a family member was sick.

Solution: 'Tis the season of giving, but sharing your germs will get you on Santa's naughty list. One sick person at Christmas dinner can turn into the whole family ringing in the New Year while sick in bed. If you feel ill, be prepared with a medicine like Robitussin Severe Multi-Symptom Cough Cold + Flu, which provides relief for your worst symptoms. If you're still not feeling yourself when festivities are occurring, it's best to stay home. Try putting on comfy pajamas and binge watching your favorite holiday movies while you rest up. Sure, it stinks to miss the fun, but in the long run you're protecting others from getting sick and giving yourself the rest you need to get well again. (BPT)

time to remember the old saying, "the more the merrier!" Put out an extra table setting, grab that bottle of wine from the cupboard and slap a bow on the top for a quick gift. Savvy hosts and hostesses will plan ahead by keeping a few extra gifts

on hand, so whether there's an extra child looking for a present under the tree or an adult who needs a bit of holiday magic, you're always set with the perfect present.

▪ **Holiday hang-up: Sickness**

From holiday travelers being confined



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Tips for selecting unique decor gifts for everyone on your list

As you strive for a happy holiday, do all your gift ideas seem ho-hum at best?

It's a common holiday conundrum: You want to show all your friends and family that you care, but finding the right present seems impossible. If you feel stuck, look for gifts that will enhance the home, because there is truly something for every personality. Skip the candle and coaster set and instead check out these unique, personal items that add fun and flair to any home, big or small.

■ **Aquariums:** Traditional rectangular aquariums are bulky and cumbersome, but now there are stunning new tabletop options perfect for everyone on your list. The biOrb TUBE 15 aquarium is designed to give a 360-degree view and features multi-color LED lighting with remote control for an eye-catching way to enjoy fishkeeping. The TUBE 15 is also a low-maintenance gift given its 5-step filtration that maintains a clean, healthy aquatic environment to achieve ideal pH balance. Enjoy the dazzling sight of bubbling water and an impressive light show all year long.

■ **Decorative pillows and throws:** Winter is the perfect time to cozy up at home, but that tattered old blanket just won't do. You can encourage friends and family to get some much-needed R&R by gifting them new pillows and a fluffy throw blanket. Fun pillows are available in unique designs that feature different pictures, words or phrases, so it's easy to find something just right for that someone special. Add a coordinating throw blanket and get ready to cuddle through all of winter's chilliest nights.

■ **Restored photographs:** Going for tears of joy? One home decor gift that will tug at the heartstrings is framed photography. A nice portrait is always a great gift option, but this year surprise your loved ones by finding old photography and getting it restored. That



photo of Grandpa fishing or of all your aunts as children is sure to bring back memories. Place in a nice frame and it is guaranteed to be an unforgettable gift that will be proudly displayed for years to come.

■ **Personalized signs:** One of the year's most popular decorating trends is custom signage. Often made from wood, these signs are painted or carved with your preferred message.

That means it can be customized to suit even the most difficult people to shop for. Popular verbiage on a custom sign includes the family surname with an "established" date. You could also include a literary phrase or personal mantra that your loved one enjoys. Because the message is personalized, you can make it perfect for everyone on your list.

■ **Himalayan salt lamps:** When the

holiday festivities are over, it's time to settle in and deal with Old Man Winter until spring-time arrives. The soft glow of salt lamps brings a warmth to rooms on the dreariest days. Made from large pieces of salt, these lamps have an almost rock-like quality with veins of white, pink and peach throughout. Some people claim they also help maintain good indoor air quality and help with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). No matter what, they are a happy addition to any room: bedroom, office or living room.

The person who has everything? Check. The hard-to-shop-for teen? Check. The newlywed couple settling into their home? Check. Home decor gifts are great for everyone on your holiday gift list, and best yet, they won't be like anything else your loved ones receive, making your gift memorable and truly cherished. (BPT)

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Coffee table books for holiday gift-giving

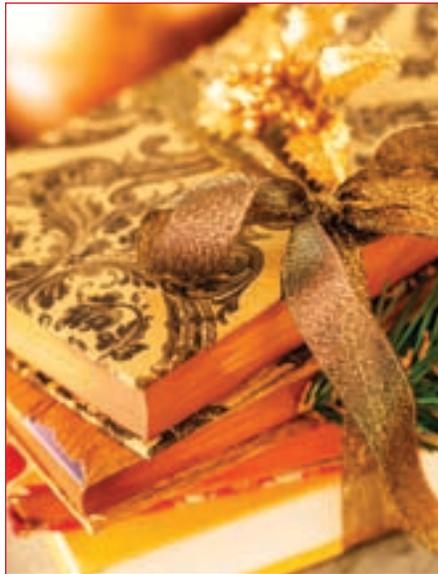
Coffee table books are not only sources of knowledge, but also high impact art statements. This season, consider the following new options.

▪ **A Book on Books**

From ancient masterpieces such as “The Art of War,” written on bamboo leaves to Chairman Mao’s “Little Red Book,” “Remarkable Books” delves into the stories behind the most incredible tomes ever produced, offering an insight into their wider social and cultural contexts. Alongside images of the books and manuscripts are close-up views highlighting interesting features, and biographies telling the lives of the people who produced them. This coffee table-worthy book makes a thoughtful gift for those with an interest in literature, art and design.

▪ **Take a Hike**

An illustrated account of human travel, from the first trade networks to space missions, “Journey” features evocative accounts, archival images, historical maps and artifacts of human migration arising from all manner of impulses -- from the search for food to pilgrimages, trade, scientific curiosity, or simply the quest for adventure.



▪ **Exploring the Natural World**

Discover Earth’s natural landmarks and the animals and plants that inhabit them with “Natural Wonders of the World.” From the granite domes of Yosemite to the reefs of the Bahama Banks, this unparalleled survey of the world’s natural treasures features landscape

photography and illustrations with 3-D terrain models, and other explanatory artworks to reveal the geological processes that formed them.

▪ **Guide to the Masterpieces**

A visual celebration of artists from the Early Renaissance to the present day, “Artists” tells the stories behind their masterpieces, including the historical context in which each artist worked, their influences, friendships, loves and rivalries. From Donatello to Dali and Giotto to Giacometti, the book showcases artwork as well as images of artists at work, making it a great gift for anyone with an interest in art, art history.

▪ **An Illustrated Epic**

“The Illustrated Mahabharata” brings the world’s longest epic to life. With more than 500 images showcasing India’s varied art forms, the book encapsulates the complete stories in an accessible way, providing details of the principal cities and kingdoms involved, a seamless weaving of Sanskrit text with regional variations and detailed family trees. It’s a great gift choice for mythology enthusiasts and history buffs. (StatePoint)

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Top tips for Christmas tree decorating

Now that you've found your perfect tree that will showcase all of your lovely Christmas decorations, it's time to get decorating! So where to begin? First, you need the right tree. A smart first step is making sure the branches on your tree are strong enough to support the weight of your decorations. While shopping for the tree, be sure to study product descriptions so you understand if a tree with delicate or soft branches will support the weight of your Christmas tree decorations.

If your family has many large ornaments, you should consider a Christmas tree that has branches separated enough to give ornaments the room they need to be properly displayed. And if you don't have many decorations and are seeking a more simple appearance, trees that appear full and have a relatively large number of tree tips will look better with fewer ornaments.

Pre-lit trees also offer consumers ease of use and could be a good choice this holiday season.

■ **What look are you going for?**

First, determine the overall look you're trying to achieve. If it is simplicity you're going after, stick to one or two colors and start with stringing your lights. Add on decorations and ornaments slowly and as you see fit. If your style is more dramatic and colorful, outline your plan of attack first, lay out all of your decorations and go one step at a time.

■ **Decorating a Christmas tree is a process.**

Generally, follow this order to get the best overall look out of a Christmas tree. First, start with the lights. Go from the base of the tree



and wrap the lights all the way to the top. Use strands of single- or multi-colored lights, according to your personal preference. It's best to use about 100 lights for every vertical foot of tree.

Next, it's time to layer on your tree garlands. Again, there are no rules on keeping all the garlands the same; uniformity is not the name of the game here. This time, start stringing from the top down, and make sure to space the garlands out evenly and hang loosely on your tree. From ribbons to beads to tinsel, use about 2 strands of garland per foot of tree length.

Now it's time for the best part: the ornaments! Start with hanging your most important ones, then go on to the largest ones and then finally fill in the gaps with small and medium size "fillers" such as icicles or shiny balls. Create depth in your tree décor by hanging your ornaments both on the branch tips and closer to the trunk. Most importantly, have fun with the process. There is no right or wrong in tree decorating and you can always move things around to your liking. So gather the family, spin those CDs, sip that mulled cider and get decorating! *American Christmas Tree Assoc.*



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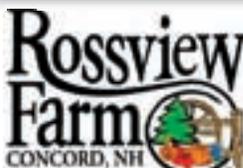
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Spread joy with a simple home-cooked meal

As the nights lengthen and temperatures drop, it's a time to embrace all the simple and cozy pleasures the season has to offer: Tailgating parties, fuzzy socks, hanging strings of lights to bring ambiance to those early evenings.

Of course, the season can also bring on some serious cravings for warm and comforting fare, like warm drinks, stews and chilis and spiced baked apple desserts. In fact, now is the perfect time to increase your contentment and spread the joy by preparing and sharing some homemade food. With these tips, you'll have the perfect recipe for making you and others around you glow with that particular inner warmth that only the season's simple pleasures can bring.

■ **Fire up the oven:** Staying in is always the perfect excuse to create a comforting meal from scratch, especially when it fills your house with warmth and good scents. It could be a batch of almond scones, a chicken pot pie with extra rosemary or a homemade pizza with a robust basil garlic sauce. For the most delicious results, always start with high-quality, wholesome ingredients that make you feel good about what you're mak-



ing. For example, high-quality seasonings and extracts, such as those from the Simply Organic line, will infuse your dishes with pure and delicious flavors.

■ **Share the joy:** Whatever you're cooking, be sure and make extras, because connecting with others is especially important this time of year. Prepare a meal and invite some friends over for an evening of feasting and conversation, Or use your cooking to uplift someone who could really use a friendly gesture. Perhaps there's an elderly neighbor

who can't get out much in the winter, or a friend or colleague with a touch of the blues. A shared homemade meal can be a source of comfort and bring contentment to a dark winter evening. Then, post your experiences and photos of your meal on social media with the hashtag #CookForAChange.

■ **All aglow:** However you share the meal, be sure and go with warm, intimate lighting. Place lit candles around the room, hang a string of lights or do both. Either way, the soft glow will make everyone want to linger a little longer over the dinner table, savoring the warmth that comes from the cozy atmosphere, delicious food and fellowship.

■ **Take time for reflection:** In the end, your effort and the happiness it creates can make you feel a deeper appreciation for life's simple pleasures. Think about how the time-honored practice of sharing your home, your time and a homemade meal transforms how you feel about the season. Then, inspire others with your stories and photos on social media with the hashtag #CookForAChange. For more information about the campaign, visit www.cookforachange.com. (BPT)

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Experience Christmas from a simpler Era at Christmas at Canterbury

CANTERBURY, NH: Christmas at Canterbury will be held on Saturday, December 9 and 16 from 3-8pm at Canterbury Shaker Village. This annual event is a chance to experience Christmas inside historic Shaker buildings. Visitors can meet Father Christmas, watch a 19th century magic show, make Christmas cards, decorate cookies, and create their own Christmas crackers!

Admire a toy train display and listen to fiddlers, as well as sing along with the Canterbury Singers as we light the Village Christmas tree. Light refreshments will be available to purchase. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-17, and under 5 free. Member admission is half price. Visit www.shakers.org for more information and to purchase tickets. Christmas at Canterbury is generously sponsored by Merrimack County Savings Bank and The Rowley Agency.

Canterbury Shaker Village will also be open this holiday season for guided candlelit tours highlighting the Shakers' Christmas traditions and showcasing the Village's extensive Christmas decorations from December 11th – 15th.

Tours will depart at 6:30pm and 7:00pm, last approximately 1 hour, and explore some of the ways in which the Shakers celebrated the holiday – from simple Christmas gatherings in the nineteenth century to elaborate theatricals in the twentieth century. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-17, and free for children under 5. Member admission is half price. This tour is recommended for ages 10+. Advance registration is required. Tour size limited to 15 people to ensure an intimate experience. For more information and to purchase



tickets, visit: www.shakers.org/candlelit-tours. The last workshops of the year at the Village include a cordials and chocolate workshop on November 11th and a DIY Herbal Holiday and Body Care workshop on December 2nd. For more information, visit: www.shakers.org.

The Canterbury Shaker Village Museum Store, which features a wide selection of simple gifts of artisan beauty and quality, will be open for holiday shopping through December 23rd. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm.

The Store will also remain open until 8pm for Christmas at Canterbury and during the candlelit tours from December 11-15.



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Ways to help those in need during the holidays

There are other meaningful ways to make a difference in your community and give back to those in need - including the 3.5 million people who experience homelessness each year, according to the United States Census Bureau - during one of the most critical times of the year. By giving money, time or material items, or partaking in small acts of kindness, you can spread holiday cheer and help instill a sense of giving in others.

■ Donate to a Food Pantry

Churches and food pantries are always in need of donations, and the holiday season is a great time to help provide a meal for someone who may not otherwise be able to eat. Canned goods and other non-perishable items like cereal, oatmeal, rice, peanut butter, canned tuna and spices are often needed. Some pantries can also use non-edible items, such as soap and other toiletries, and simply donating money is always an option, as well.

■ Volunteer at a Soup Kitchen

Because extended exposure to cold weather can be dangerous, soup kitchens and homeless shelters are often more crowded during this time of year. While soup kitchens and other aid facilities often see an influx of volunteers during the holidays, most are still



grateful for the extra hands to help serve a meal or assist with other tasks around the facilities.

■ Host a Coat Drive

Providing clothing, specifically coats, for the less fortunate during the colder months is another way to assist those in your community. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a warm winter coat is considered

a "budget extra" for nearly 15 percent of Americans living in poverty. National non-profit organization, One Warm Coat, is dedicated to providing a free, warm coat to any person in need. The organization has facilitated more than 27,000 coat drives nationwide and has a goal of collecting 1 million coats this winter in celebration of its 25th season of giving. Learn more about how you can get involved at onewarmcoat.org/youcanhelp.

■ Attend a Benefit Event

Concerts, theatrical performances, walks and other exhibits are often held during the holiday season with the proceeds going to benefit a local charity or service organization. Many community service clubs also offer benefit dinners or bake sales that can provide a positive impact for those in need.

■ Adopt a Family

There are many organizations that can help you sponsor a family in your area to help provide gifts and other necessities for over the holiday season. Most can provide you with a list of items each family member needs to make shopping easier. (Family Features)

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Give kids experiential gifts this Christmas

If, like many parents, you struggle with what to get your kids for the holidays, consider thinking outside the box and giving them gifts that will expand their horizons. Underscoring the importance of combining adventure and education, experts say that school is much easier when kids can draw upon skills they've learned through outside experiences.

"Experiential gifts can teach a new, lifelong skill, provide a fun, new way to spend family time, and build memories together in a way that no toy or gadget could," says Emily Levitt, vice president of Education for Sylvan Learning.

To this point, Levitt encourages parents to get creative this holiday season, and give the gift of learning. "These kinds of gifts are special not just for your child, but for everyone who participates. And I can't think of a better way to spend the holidays."

To that end, here are a few holiday suggestions for parents that kids will not only love, but learn from as well:

▪ **The Science of Cooking.** Your little chef will not only get to make and eat delicious food that they'll be able to recreate at home, but will learn how to incorporate math, since this intrinsic skill is necessary for making flavorful dishes. Following a recipe requires learning how to measure and getting familiar with fractions. If they want to double a recipe, they'll have to use multiplication and addition skills.

▪ **Getting an EDGE on the competition.** For a gift that encompasses science, technology, engineering AND math, look no further than Sylvan Learning. A package of Sylvan EDGE classes will empower kids to lay the groundwork for future success and have fun



while doing it. The combination of fun and academic mastery is unique. Whether it's designing a video game from scratch after school, programming a LEGO robot on Saturdays, or engineering seriously cool super structures, your child will be learning something new every time and will be delighted to try the next series of courses as soon as they finish!

▪ **iving the gift of music.** Music lessons are a great way to uncover a talent and passion that is both creative and math-based. From guitar to piano or maybe even the sax, you can give kids the option to choose which instrument to explore. Both music and math

go hand-in-hand because they both involve patterns, ratios, fractions, proportions, and memorization.

▪ **Getting moving.** Kids with a ton of energy will enjoy classes such as gymnastics or rock climbing. These activities not only teach kids about the human body, but are developmental sports, which require a progression of steps. The skills needed in these activities can stimulate problem solving, math, and reading in school.

For more information, please visit www.getsylvanedge.com. (NewsUSA)

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Gifts that give hope to others from UNICEF

Hope is a gift on every child's wish list, especially those in parts of the world ravaged by natural disasters and poverty. Giving hope lets these children know that the world hasn't forgotten them.

From UNICEF Market products to items available from partners, UNICEF USA is making it possible to give gifts that make a difference and deliver the greatest gift of all: hope.

▪ **Goods from around the globe**

From jewelry to accessories to home decor, each item purchased through the UNICEF Market benefits programs that provide children with basic necessities such as nutrition, medicine, education, clean water and more. The UNICEF Market, market.unicefusa.org, is a partnership between UNICEF USA and Novica that offers unique items such as multicolored snowman ornaments made in India and an artisan leather tray handmade in Peru.

▪ **Inspired giving**

Another option is UNICEF Inspired Gifts, which are lifesaving items that can be purchased in honor of a loved one and go directly to help children in need around the world. Examples include hygiene kits,



mosquito nets and winter survival packs. Find more options at inspiregifts.org.

▪ **Kid-friendly inspiration**

Motivate kids, inspire philanthropy and help save the lives of malnourished children around the world with the Star Wars: Force for Change UNICEF Kid Power Band. Every movement made while wearing the activity band adds up to points that unlock lifesaving nutrition, which is sent to malnourished children around the world. Bands are available at Target or unicefkidpower.org.

▪ **Accessories with purpose**

This holiday season, ALEX AND ANI is

spreading a message of world peace with a jewelry collection that features the iconic peace symbol and benefits UNICEF's work for children. The World Peace collection includes an online-exclusive sterling silver necklace with Swarovski crystals, a charm bracelet and a trend necklace. In addition, bracelets with a festive-themed snowman, daisy and a mother and child charm also support the cause. Until Aug. 31, 2018, ALEX AND ANI will donate 20 percent of the purchase price of all items sold through its retail stores, authorized retailers and on alexandani.com.

▪ **Comfort that keeps on giving**

To help children around the world, L'Occitane will donate \$4 from each Shea Butter Collection and Shea Butter Deluxe Collection Gift Sets to UNICEF, up to \$120,000. The gift sets are available for purchase at boutiques throughout the United States and Canada, and online at usa.loccitane.com.

Giving a gift that inspires hope this holiday season can impact not only the person receiving the gift but also vulnerable children around the world. (Family Features)



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Give the gift of connectivity, without the stress

Once again, tech is topping lots of wish lists. We've all been there. You unwrap your wanted new tech, but before you can use your exciting new gift, there's usually some assembly or setup required. The setup is a major source of frustration for nearly a third of consumers recently surveyed by Asurion, the global leader in technology support and protection services, who say that putting together new technology has ruined their holiday.

This happens more than you may think. Asurion surveyed over 1,000 consumers and found that 64 percent of people have received a tech gadget for the holidays that they didn't know how to work. And it's not just the older generations that are having problems; 75 percent of millennials admit they've been stumped by a new device, compared to 53 percent of boomers.

"While the benefits of connected devices are virtually endless, the devices have become increasingly complex, and we're finding that even the most tech-savvy consumers are being outsmarted," says Bettie Colombo, spokesperson for Asurion. "We have a team of



thousands of tech experts on standby to help consumers avoid the pitfalls and frustrations of setting up new technology so they can get back to enjoying the holidays with friends, family and their new tech."

The struggle to set up new technology has become such a challenge that 41 percent of people avoid buying their older friends and family members tech devices altogether just to avoid the hassle of helping them set them up. This process can become time-consuming, with 62 percent of millennials spending an hour or more helping friends or family with

their devices over the holidays. In fact, six in 10 millennials would be willing to shell out their hard-earned cash to never have to answer a tech question again!

Asurion's tech experts help users avoid the frustrations of device setup this holiday by making it quick and easy to get help with technology issues regardless of brand or platform. Asurion's support and protection services are available through most wireless carriers. "The smartphone has become the remote control for all of your tech," Colombo says. "Enrolling in your carrier's support and protection program not only provides you with peace of mind that your smartphone is covered for loss, theft and damage, but also provides you with one-click access to a live U.S.-based tech expert to answer all your questions." Ask your wireless carrier about Asurion support and protection, or learn more here: <https://www.asurion.com/solution-service/features> (NewsUSA)

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