



# Christmas Shopping Guide

**2022**

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# Tips for a happy hosting experience this holiday season

The holidays are coming up, which means your life will be full of family, friends and many delicious meals. To keep everything running along merrily this year, why not take steps to make hosting less stressful, and a lot more joyful? Here are key tips and a few must-have kitchen essentials that can make your holiday hosting easier than ever.

■ **1. Stock your pantry**

Even before finalizing your holiday menus, ensuring that your pantry staples are well stocked will prevent last-minute panic runs to the store for things like flour, salt, cooking oil and chocolate, lots of chocolate. Take inventory of your cupboards to see if any of those kitchen necessities are running low - then you'll be ready for all kinds of tasty recipes.

■ **2. Don't underestimate prep time**

If your recipe says a dish takes 45 minutes to prepare and cook, build in an extra 30 minutes when scheduling your meal prep time before guests arrive. Even better, prep or cook some items (or components) ahead, so they're pre-chopped or ready to take from the fridge and reheat. Everything always takes longer than expected, so you'll relieve a lot of stress if you know you'll have time to



do it well.

■ **3. Let many hands make light work**

Holiday cooking and baking memories with friends and relatives may be some of the best memories from your own childhood, so go ahead and let your family and friends help out with some of your meal preparation, cooking and table setting. Even little hands can do a few simple tasks to help, and the more the merrier!

■ **4. Use the right tools for the job**

Here are some kitchen must-haves that can make your holiday hosting seem effortless: GoodCook Quick-Baste Roasting Pan - You'll be ready for any major holiday gathering with this 13x17 pan that comes with a locking rack. It's large enough for all your favorite chicken, beef and pork roasts, and

it can even handle a 25-pound turkey. Constructed with a unique v-shape that allows for the collecting of juices and liquids, you can safely baste in half the time and leave the oven door open for a shorter time to keep cooking temperature consistent. GoodCook Meat Tenderizer - This double-sided mallet features a textured side for breaking up fibers in tougher meat and a smooth side for flattening cutlets. It's also the ultimate tool to ensure that your seasonings and toppings are perfectly pulverized. GoodCook Digital Thermometer - Make sure all your food is properly cooked with an accurate thermometer that has an easy-to-read digital display so you can read the temperature quickly. GoodCook AirPerfect Nonstick Baking Sheet - Be ready for cookie swaps or spontaneous baking moments with these insulated cookie sheets that provide even baking and moister cookies.

■ **5. Clean as you go**

If you can do some of the cleanup during the preparation and cooking process, you'll not only maximize your prep surface, but you'll also make it a lot easier to finish the cleaning after the festivities have wound down for the day. (BPT)

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# 7 tips for choosing a Christmas tree

With the holidays approaching, it will soon be time to plan the family gatherings and decide on the perfect gift. But don't forget the star of the show: the Christmas tree. Expert arborist Mark Chisholm offers these tips to help you choose the perfect tree for your home.

■ **1. Select your location**

Before you head to the lot or store to pick out this year's perfect tree, decide where you want to place the tree and the space available. Try to avoid spots near heat sources such as radiators, fireplaces, heating vents or sun-drenched windows. Also try to tuck the tree into a low-traffic area to avoid accidental bumping and possible safety issues. Next, you'll need to measure the space dimensions you have to work with, bearing in mind that a tree stand will add a few extra inches of height, as will a star or angel to finish the top.

■ **2. Consider a charitable tree lot**

If you're like me and look forward to contributing to the spirit of the season while picking a tree, you can look for charitable lots. One I like to shop at donates all their proceeds to a local children's hospital. Another option



would be to purchase an extra tree and then donate it to a family that cannot afford a tree or an organization that finds the right home for the tree.

■ **3. Select the right tree**

At the lot you will see three or four common varieties of trees. Some things to consider when choosing the right type will be the color, shape and feel of a tree. Some trees are dark green, and others have gray or white

hues. There are trees with tight branching patterns and then some with more spaces. One thing to remember is that if the tree looks very full while absent of ornaments, it may be difficult to decorate. Most trees that end up on a lot have been groomed and sheared to look great during the selection process. Then you get it home and realize that there's very little space for ornaments. Choosing one with some empty spaces might be a better route. ▶

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You could also bring a few of your favorite ornaments with you to test at the store. Also, be sure that the first foot of trunk is straight too, or you'll have one heck of a time getting it to stand up correctly at home.

■ **4. Try a live tree**

Balled and burlap or container trees can be a nice choice for a live tree. After the holidays are over, it can be added to the landscape. One extra step you'll need to adopt is the assessment of the planting space for proper growing space, sunlight and watering needs. Make sure the species you are choosing will thrive in your climate. A tree shipped from New Hampshire will have a rough time surviving the warm summer months in South Carolina.

■ **5. Test your tree for freshness**

Once you have the look you want, you'll need to test the tree for freshness. Trees that are on a lot have been cut and shipped weeks earlier. Look for greener trees with no signs of wilting or browning. What can be tricky is the fact that many trees have undergone a colorizing treatment before they were shipped. That is why a quick pull test is next on my list. Grab a limb or two and pull them toward you. Release the limb slowly, allowing it to pull through your hand. A fresh tree will keep most or all of its needles in this test, and the limb



will not feel brittle or snap. Flexibility in the limbs is a must if the tree is to remain green for the next few weeks indoors. The final test is a quick drop test. Lift the tree a few inches off of the ground and then let the butt of the tree hit the ground. That quick shock will release any dry needles and give you a good feel for how fresh the tree truly is. Don't worry about a few needles letting loose within the interior.

■ **6. Prepare your tree for indoors**

Once you pick the perfect tree and truck it home, make a fresh cut at the base, unless it was already done for you. One thing I like to do before I bring my tree inside is to take out my STIHL blower and give the tree a quick blast to remove any loose needles, debris wedged in the branches and, most important-



ly, any insects or egg masses that might have survived the journey.

■ **7. Recycle your tree**

After Christmas is over, you'll need to dispose of the family tree. There are many recycling programs all over the country that account for the recycling of 93% of all trees nationally. Most get ground into mulch to be given back to the community or utilized as mulch in flower beds and parks. Check local sources for recycling options in your area, or check out this article for ideas on how to reuse your Christmas tree: 7 Ways to Reuse or Recycle your Christmas Tree at <https://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to-plans/how-to/g2384/6-ways-to-reuse-your-christmas-tree/>. (BPT)

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# Candle scents that will put the ho ho ho in your holiday

Decorations, food and entertainment are all important aspects of the holiday season, but another impactful way you can create a homey holiday feel is through fragrance. "Our sense of smell is our strongest sense," said Harry Slatkin, home fragrance expert and founder of Slatkin & Co. "It goes straight to your brain and can recall a memory and give you a sense of joy in an instant." As you return home for the holidays this year, Slatkin, dubbed the "Candle King" by The New York Times, offers these five home fragrance tips to create a festive and joyful holiday atmosphere with scented candles.

■ **1. Scents to greet your guests**

When your guests arrive, you'll want to have a scented candle burning that makes them feel relaxed and uplifted as soon as they walk in. In your entryway, light an aromatic candle with notes of pine or fir balsam to greet guests with a fresh, woody fragrance.

■ **2. Scents to gather around**

No matter where you start the evening, chances are everyone will eventually gather and end the night in your living room. To create a cheerful and festive atmosphere, choose a candle with bright, invigorating



notes like Christmas Joy. This lively fragrance blends sparkling citrus notes with a variety of holiday spices, fresh cranberries and blue spruce that will remind you and guests of cherished holidays spent sipping mulled wine in front of the fireplace.

■ **3. Scents for the cooking and dining areas**

Choosing a scent for spaces where you will be cooking or eating can be tricky because you don't want a candle fragrance to compete with the aroma of your holiday dishes. Instead, after the cooking is finished, burn a gourmand-scented candle in the kitchen with notes of buttercream and brown sugar that will have your guests' mouths watering. Even if there is nothing cooking in the kitchen, the inviting fragrance

will have them thinking you just took a tray of baked sugar cookies out of the oven.

■ **4. Scents for you**

As a host, don't get so caught up in the party planning that you forget to enjoy the holiday season. Take time to take care of yourself by relaxing alone at home in your favorite spot with an aromatherapy candle. A scented candle with soothing notes of geranium, frankincense and cedarwood can produce a sense of tranquility and calm to help you find a sense of inner peace.

■ **5. Scents for the ones you love**

Gift a sensory experience by buying scented candles for those near and dear to you. While the act of gifting scented candles may have served as a punchline on late-night TV in recent years, the \$23 billion U.S. home fragrance market is no joke. Americans love scented candles. For a wide variety of choices, check out the Homeworx by Slatkin & Co. collection of 4-wick candles. Whether your loved ones prefer warm, comforting candles with notes of cinnamon, pumpkin and vanilla, fruity scents or woody, winter-themed fragrances, you're sure to find options to satisfy them all. Best of all, they'll think of you every time they light their candles. (BPT)

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# 4 ways you can save money during this holiday season

With many facing rising costs on essential needs, people are looking for deals and new ways to save money, now more than ever. As we enter the holiday season, what is meant to be a joyful time can become stressful - especially if money is tight! Luckily, it's possible for everyone to enjoy the holidays and stick to a budget when shopping on Amazon. This season, try these 4 tips to save on everything from food, gifts and home entertainment.

■ **1. Check out new ways to save on the Amazon Access hub**

Everyone knows Amazon Prime can help save time and money, but did you know that Amazon now offers a one-stop shop for customers to explore the programs, discounts and features that make shopping on Amazon easier than ever - including for those shopping with SNAP EBT and other forms of payment? This new hub even includes information on Amazon's growing discounted membership option, Prime Access, which offers all of the shopping, savings and entertainment benefits of Prime for just \$6.99/month (reg. \$14.99/month). Last year, Prime Access members saved an average of more than \$1,600 from shipping savings,



coupons and membership discounts alone. To learn more or start a 30-day trial, visit [amazon.com/primeaccess](https://amazon.com/primeaccess).

■ **2. Make a budget shop early deals**

Budgets are your best friend, especially during the holidays! After paying your monthly bills, determine how much money you have left over and divide that among the loved ones you want to treat this year. Then filter by price when shopping online so you stick to that budget. Also, take advantage of Amazon's daily Lightning Deals, as well as Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday events to score the lowest prices of the year on gifts for everyone on your list.

■ **3. Enjoy free entertainment**

The traditions that cost little to nothing are often the ones that make the best memo-

ries - like cozying up on the couch for movie night with friends or loved ones. Get in the holiday spirit by streaming award-winning movies, Amazon Original series or even live sports on Prime Video. Or, host a family carol sing-along night by streaming the 100 million songs available ad-free now for Prime members on Amazon Music.

■ **4. Make a holiday feast or order take-out - for a fraction of the cost**

So much of the holiday season centers around food. Rest assured you'll be able to fill the table and everyone's bellies without breaking the bank when you get your groceries through Amazon Fresh. Find consistently low prices on your favorite brands, with weekly deals delivered to your inbox and 20% off on select everyday favorites, essentials, and more in store for Prime members. As an added bonus, get some precious family time back when you use same-day delivery or pickup options. Prime members in the U.S. can also get \$10 off a Grubhub order over \$25 using code GiveMe10. To score this deal, available November 25-28, Prime members must be signed up for the existing free, one-year Grubhub+ membership trial, available at [amazon.com/grubhub](https://amazon.com/grubhub). (BPT)

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## Get into the holiday spirit: Tips for gifting the perfect drinks for any occasion

The art of gift-giving is a process that's admittedly a bit more difficult than meets the eye. If you're someone who struggles to find a perfect present that says, "I think you're great," take solace in the fact that you're not alone. A recent survey from Drizly, a beverage alcohol e-commerce shop, found that 39% of people say the hardest person to buy a gift for is their significant other.



This holiday season, finding that irreplaceable, unreturnable, never-miss gift is easier than downing a Yuletide fruitcake.

According to Drizly, 84% of respondents said they enjoy receiving alcohol as a gift. Whether you're buying a holiday gift for a family member, celebrating a special occasion or looking to send something thoughtful to a long-distance friend, a bottle of wine, Champagne, whiskey or other drink can be easy to send and easy to pick out, with the right tools, of course.

Here are a couple of ways to up your gifting game this holiday season:

■ **1. Order a last-minute gift (and get some help from the experts when picking it out)**

It's easy to lose track of all the gifts you need to buy during the holiday season. Forgot someone on your list and aren't sure what to get? Don't sweat it. Drizly's guided gift shopping helps you find the perfect bottle based on your friend or family member's tastes and interests. Just answer a few quick questions about their booze preference and voila: the perfect gift bottle. Best of all, you can get it delivered on-demand, so your gift arrives on time for the holidays, even if you've missed shipping deadlines from other stores. Just don't let 'em know you left it till the last minute.

■ **2. Bring the perfect bottle to a holiday party**

You don't want to be the person who shows up to the holiday party empty-handed. If you need help finding the perfect bottle to bring to the next get-together and keep the holidays spirited, check out Drizly's gifting hub. With one of the widest selections of barrel-aged bourbons, local craft beers, fancy bubbly bottles and every type of drink in between, you'll be sure to make that invite list next year.

■ **3. Send a thoughtful gift that goes the distance**

The holidays and other celebrations are a great time to delight friends and family with a gift that lets them know you're thinking of them. Whether it's a bottle of buttery chardonnay or a small-batch reposado tequila, choose the delivery date on Drizly for a cross-country present delivered to their doorstep in 2-5 days or schedule delivery from a local store in their area up to two weeks in advance. To make it even more special, you can even customize your order with an e-card to wish them well from afar.

No matter how you celebrate this holiday season, the gift of drinks helps your recipients savor life's moments. (BPT)



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# It's the most wonderful (read: stressful) time of the year

Are you excited about the holiday season or are you dreading it? While this time of year can be filled with cheer and joy, it can also be incredibly overwhelming. In fact, 2 in 3 Americans are stressed about this holiday season. What exactly are they stressing about? Their budgets, according to the latest Consumer Spend Report from Affirm. Affirm's survey found that 9 in 10 Americans plan to shop for the holidays this year, yet 1 in 3 will do so without saving money beforehand. Read on for some other surprising results.

■ **Buying gifts is stretching wallets - and patience**

Budgeting and buying gifts for friends and family are at the very top of Americans' lists of concerns this holiday season. So, it's no surprise that Americans reported to be nearly just as stressed out about Black Friday and Cyber Monday (38%) as they are for Thanksgiving (43%).

Money isn't the only pain point when it comes to holiday shopping. Stressed gift shoppers pointed to waiting in long lines (68%) and getting stuck in traffic or crowded transit (54%) as the things they dread the most. "While the burden of gifting, budgeting, long lines and holiday traffic may take



away some of your holiday cheer, Affirm can help bring it back. A valuable budgeting tool, paying with Affirm is one smart choice you can make this holiday season to stay in control of your finances," said Ashmi Pancholi, Affirm's Trends Expert.

■ **Americans are dodging their holiday obligations**

Whether it's attending the mandatory office gift swap or a crowded road trip to Grandma's, it's no secret that holiday obligations can be anything but jolly. The result? 1 in 5 Americans admitted to getting out of their unwanted holiday plans. Of the guilty ones, 36% have lied about their availability, 24% have faked an illness and 22% ghosted without any excuse. Nearly 1 in 10 have gone so far as to intentionally miss a flight.

Some people are even willing to spend money to get out of their holiday obligations. 70% of men would spend more than \$50 to avoid unwanted to-do's like the obligatory holiday party or awkward family dinner, compared to 51% of women.

■ **Gen Z & Millennials are especially stressed, but they are focused on the future**

75% of Gen Zers are stressed about the holidays, compared to 67% of Boomers and 65% of Millennials. But, many are especially focused on improving their financial health: almost half of Gen Z (42%) and over a quarter of Millennials (28%) say saving money is their #1 New Year's resolution.

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# 4 ways to gift experiences that make more memories

Instead of gifting the latest toy, fashion trend or home gadget, consider giving the gift of an experience. When you give the gift of an experience, you're providing opportunities for the recipient to make memories that will last longer than any fad or gadget. Check out these four experiential gift ideas you can use to up your gift-giving game this holiday season.

■ **1. Learn a new skill together**

Have you always wanted to learn how to ski? Or have your kids begged for guitar lessons? Maybe your spouse is interested in learning pottery, or Grandpa has mentioned an interest in woodworking. Try something new and take a class together this holiday season. If your family enjoys the activity, it could become a tradition you all look forward to each year. Even if you only try an activity once and decide it's not for you, you'll still have the memory of trying something new with the people you love.

■ **2. Take a trip**

It's fun to get away with the whole family during the holiday season. Once you find the perfect spot, you can turn a family trip into an annual holiday tradition. Check out Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, where



there's something for everyone from ages 2 to 92, all under one roof. With four locations in Wisconsin Dells, WI; Sandusky, OH; Pocono Mountains, PA; and Round Rock, TX, you can easily find a resort within driving distance of your home. Kalahari Resorts are home to America's largest indoor waterparks, the perfect place to make holiday memories with the whole family. While your kids are sure to have fun and tire themselves out, the older family members can enjoy the full-service spa, family entertainment center, live entertainment, signature restaurants and shops.

■ **3. Buy a family membership**

If you've wanted to spend more time exploring local museums, zoos, live theaters or other attractions close to home, consider buying a family membership. Not only are



you more likely to go if you've already paid for a membership, but you can use it immediately and start making memories during the holidays. Best of all, you can continue to visit throughout the year and make memories year-round.

■ **4. Encourage experiences with gift cards**

Gift cards don't need to be limited to retail stores and restaurants. Take note of your family members' interests and buy them gift cards that support and encourage exploration. For example, if your youngest is a budding film critic, get them a gift card to your local movie theater. Give Grandma and Grandpa a gift card to the local museum or your spouse a membership to a yoga or Pilates studio. (BPT)

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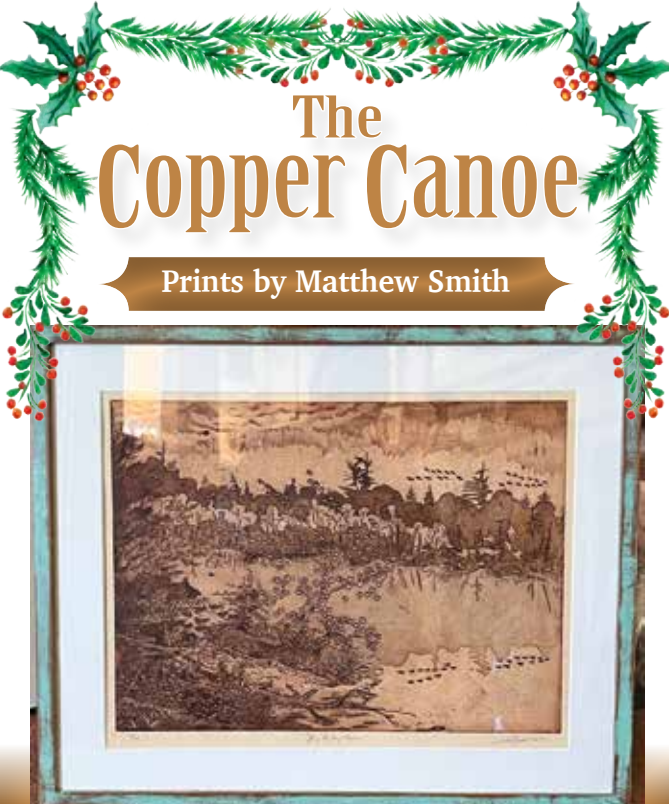
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# Need a holiday gift idea? Teach your child a DIY skill

It's true at any age: The more do-it-yourself skills we can develop, the better control we'll have when it comes to maintaining our homes, vehicles and the other material assets that help us lead productive and enjoyable lives.

That's why it's so important to keep teaching our children such practical skills as they grow into adulthood. As kids learn how to handle their own tasks surrounding home maintenance, small engine repair, auto mechanics and other elements of day-to-day life, they develop confidence in their own abilities and hone the problem-solving skills that will help them succeed.

Further, when you take an active role in imparting such valuable "garage logic," you can create bonding experiences that strengthen intergenerational relationships.

"Sharing a mutual goal, combining strengths, helping each other and negotiating decisions together can foster a sense of teamwork and bring people closer," advises Kristen Mosier on BobVila.com. "And, of course, admiring a finished project is sweeter when shared."

This holiday season, you may wish to invest in your child's future by giving them



the gift of practical DIY knowledge. Here are suggestions for making that happen.

Explore their areas of interest. Be proactive by talking to your child ahead of time

about the skills he or she would most like to learn. Your teenager may wish to seize independence by learning how to repair her own car, while your green-thumbed youngster ▶

## Fundraiser for the Hillsboro Rescue Squad



A Christmas Ornament locally made by Riverside Precision Sheet Metal is being sold for a \$20 donation by the Hillsboro Rescue Squad to raise money for training equipment and for general Ambulance Assistance.

These can be purchased at the following locations and businesses:

- Hillsboro Fire Department
- Granite State Computers, 27 W. Main St.
- Premier Printing, 5 School St.

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may be most enthusiastic about mastering the mechanics of your yard and garden equipment.

Share your area of expertise. If you're skilled in a certain category, you might feel especially proud and happy to pass that specific knowledge on to the next generation. Tell your child the story of how you acquired your own abilities, and explain why you're excited to be sharing them with the next generation.

Establish good cleanliness and safety habits. Teach kids to prioritize a safe work environment by insisting on protective gear such as safety glasses, earphones, masks and gloves. Make sure everyone involved in the project participates in keeping floors, counters, tools and other elements cleared off, hazard-free and well organized.

Make tools part of your gift. When the majority of your lesson is finished, consider passing the tools you've used on to your child - or, buy them their own new set they can continue using once they leave your household. With its huge span of machinery, tools and equipment, Northern Tool + Equipment is a great place to walk the aisles and explore tools to help your child fill up their tool belt.

"We're in the business of providing the

essential tools and gear that people need to handle any tough job that comes their way, whether they're pros or DIYers," said Suresh Krishna, President and CEO of Northern Tool. "The gift of high-quality tools is one that can keep on giving for years to come, and can help instill pride in working with one's hands at an early age."

Create maximum fun. Make sure to create positive memories by making your experiences enjoyable for everyone involved. That means anticipating mistakes, remaining patient, explaining how errors can be corrected and making sure your child knows they're not expected to know everything right away. Ideally, you'll both look back on your experience with fondness, not confusion or regret.

Celebrate your achievements. Once your child has mastered a skill, praise them for having the patience and attentiveness to see it through. Remind them of how the knowledge they've learned can serve them well in the future, and celebrate their new achievement as a family however and whenever that's appropriate.

This holiday season, helping your child learn a new and practical skill could be a wonderful alternative to a more traditional gift. Consider a present of your time and

expertise that could make your child more knowledgeable, confident and self-sufficient as they face life's everyday challenges. (BPT)



**Seamus Egan Celtic Christmas at the Chubb Theatre**

It's hard to think of an artist in traditional Irish music more influential than Seamus Egan. From his beginnings as a teen prodigy, to his founding of Irish-American powerhouse band Solas, to his current work as one of the leading composers and interpreters of the tradition, Egan has inspired multiple generations of musicians and helped define the sound of Irish music today.

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# Tips for throwing a fabulous Friendsgiving

It's also a fantastic time to gather with friends you haven't seen in a while or who may be local but are too busy to get together regularly. Whatever your reason, make your Friendsgiving extra special this year using the following tips.

■ **1. Set the tone**

Casual and relaxed? Fancy and formal? Whatever your style, set the tone starting with the invitation. You can send physical invitations or digital cards - make sure to include the time, location and theme if you choose to have one. You can also add instructions for how to RSVP. Have fun with the invite and have the art or design reflect the tone of your dinner. This way, you can make sure your friends know what to expect.

■ **2. Statement decor**

Use a few statement pieces to make the meal feel festive and fun. Visit your grocery store and find colorful pomegranates, gourds and fresh flowers. Or, head to your local craft shop. While you're there, you can pick up dried flowers, ribbon and wreaths to decorate your door or common areas where everyone will congregate. For a special touch, add personalized place cards, and add candles for soft lighting.



■ **3. Get guests involved**

According to Kachet Jackson-Henderson, lifestyle expert and founder of The Kachet Life, a fashionable lifestyle brand for the modern woman, your No. 1 goal as a host is to ensure everyone is comfortable and feels involved. "Offering a glass of wine as guests arrive is a great way to start," said Jackson-Henderson, "then put them to work! Having a little job can make guests feel at ease. Think setting the table, arranging a bouquet of flowers or helping out in the kitchen."

■ **4. Prepare a menu**

Plan out a menu, but don't feel the need to make everything from scratch. You can easily pick up premade or take-and-bake items to supplement your meal. Ask guests to bring a dish or order a few takeout items. You can dress them up with serving dishes.

■ **5. Don't forget the drinks**

As a finishing touch, think about some delicious drinks that pair with everything on the menu. Plan to have enough beverages on hand for guests to enjoy throughout your gathering, from appetizers to dessert. "I like to keep wine on the table during a meal," said Angelina Mondavi, consulting winemaker for Flat Top Hills and member of the fourth-generation member of the C. Mondavi family. "It feels less formal and more inviting. If you're looking for a quintessential selection this time of the year, pick up a Pinot Noir. It's incredibly versatile and complements a wide range of menus. Also, a rich, luscious Buttery Chardonnay is a great dessert pairing." To learn more about these wines and find a selection for your Friendsgiving dinner, visit FlatTopWines.com/Shop.

■ **6. A memorable ending**

A parting gift makes the meal even more memorable! Ask guests to bring food containers or buy a cheap set to send them home with leftovers. For an extra special touch, give guests a little bag of cookies or even a pastry to enjoy the next morning! Using these tips, you'll host a Friendsgiving guests will want to repeat year after year. (BPT)

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# 3 easy ways to give back this holiday season

Traditions, tidings and tinsel - the holidays are a time for celebration. While you are planning parties and checking off gift lists, you also know that the holiday season is much more than that. It's also the time to give thanks and give back to the communities. In fact, December is the most popular time of year for charitable giving, according to the National Philanthropic Trust, and Americans get more generous every year. In 2021, Americans gave around \$485 billion, a 4% increase from the previous year.

Whether it's donating to a community fundraiser, making a donation at checkout, donating unused credit card rewards points, or supporting a cause you care about, it's a great time to get into the holiday spirit and give back. Here are some ideas for fitting charitable giving in to your budget this year.

### ■ 1. Take your purchases further with micro-donations

Make every purchase count this holiday season. With PayPal's Give at Checkout, you can easily give \$1 to support your favorite charity when you check out using PayPal. Every donation makes a difference, especially during the busiest shopping time of the year.

How it works:



Visit your PayPal app or PayPal.com and search for the charity you wish to support. Click into the charity profile then the heart icon. Once you choose your favorite charity, simply click the donation checkbox each time you check out with PayPal at eligible businesses.

### ■ 2. Donate to support your favorite charities

PayPal Giving Fund helps you support your favorite charities online. With over a million vetted organizations that focus on the environment, animals, disaster relief, mental health, gender equality, hunger and more, you can support local and global charities that are close to your heart with an easy

online donation.

How it works: Charities enroll with PayPal Giving Fund and you can donate on PayPal. PayPal Giving Fund receives the donations and provides you with a receipt. PayPal covers your donation fees when you give in the app or on the PayPal website, so your donation can go further. PayPal Giving Fund grants the donated funds to the charity in accordance with their policies.

### ■ 3. Start your own fundraiser

PayPal Fundraisers help you create your own fundraiser to lend a hand or find more support for friends, family, groups, charities and local businesses you care about. You can also search for and support existing fundraisers on the PayPal app based on your location, interest and what's popular.

How it works: Start by downloading the PayPal app. Then, go to Pay > Giving > Start a fundraiser. Name your fundraiser and set your goal amount and end date. Add details for your fundraiser and upload an image. Finally, publish the fundraiser and share it via text or on social media to help spread the word. You can also discover or create a PayPal Fundraiser on PayPal.com. Learn more about the ways you can give at PayPal.com. (BPT)

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# Gift ideas that save energy (and do a world of good)

When checking your holiday list, you're searching for gifts that inspire joy and delight, and electronic items often fit that description. But what if that gift also happens to have a positive impact on your loved one's life and the world at large? With all that has happened in the last couple of years, many of us have a greater appreciation for the things that protect the health of the planet for everyone.

Whether you're shopping for a shiny new appliance or gadgets to make someone's life easier, here's how your gift can do a world of good: look for products that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. These are independently certified to use less energy than standard products, which not only saves money on energy costs, but also makes a difference for the climate.

■ **To inspire you, here are a few holiday shopping list ideas:** Cool savings on the hottest electronic devices: Did you know the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products? The more you invest in items designed to save energy, the more the savings will rack up. That has become even more important these days as families continue to use multiple electronics for work and

school. For catching up on favorite shows, tablets use four times less energy than streaming to a laptop and 15 times less than a desktop computer. An energy-efficient sound bar offers a sleek solution to achieving that rich stereo effect, but uses 70% less energy than a conventional model.

■ **A smarter solution to save heating costs:** Families are still spending more time at home and energy bills have skyrocketed. Smart thermostats take the guesswork out of maximizing energy efficiency, and choosing an ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostat means savings you can trust. Plus, they make great gifts. Were everyone to make the switch, we'd save 56 trillion BTUs of energy and \$740 million a year, offsetting 13 billion pounds of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

■ **Appliances with noticeable cost savings:** Even when the purchase price is nice, don't overlook this hidden cost of owning appliances: the cost of operating the product. So, if you're eyeing a new washer/dryer set as the perfect holiday gift, make sure it's energy efficient. You'll feel good helping your loved one realize more than 20% savings on their electric bill while using one-third less water compared to the standard models.

A bright idea for stocking stuffers: Here's a small gift that can light up their lives and save some serious bucks. Just one energy-efficient, LED light bulb can save more than \$50 in electricity costs over its lifetime. If each American home replaced just a single bulb with one that earned the ENERGY STAR certification, we'd prevent more than 7 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

■ **A charger to go with that new electric car:** And if big gifts are part of your holiday plan, remember to check out electric vehicles (EVs) and an ENERGY STAR certified charger. EVs are the future of driving and you (or your loved one) can save an average of \$800 to \$1,000 a year on fuel and an average of \$4,600 on maintenance over the lifetime of the vehicle.

An ENERGY STAR certified charger completes the gift and uses 40% less energy in standby mode than the standard. Be sure to check for federal tax credits and utility rebates to sweeten the deal.

Still looking for a great gift that is both innovative and energy efficient? Check out [energystar.gov/holiday](http://energystar.gov/holiday) for everything you need to help your loved ones save money and protect the climate all year long. (BPT)



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# Forest Service Christmas Tree permits available for purchase

CAMPTON, NH - White Mountain National Forest officials are welcoming the public to select and cut a Christmas tree on the White Mountain NF (WMNF) with the purchase of a \$5.00 permit.

Permits are available for purchase online (an additional \$2.50 service fee applies) or in-person at a WMNF office. Fourth graders with an "Every Kid Outdoors" pass are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit and can apply by entering the pass or voucher number when purchasing a permit.

- Permits can be purchased online or in-person at a WMNF office

- Only 1 permit issued per household per year. Trees are for personal use only, not for resale. Each family may cut one tree per permit per year.

- Use only hand tools to cut Christmas trees. Chainsaws are not permitted.

- Make sure you are on National Forest land. Respect the rights of landowners when crossing private property.

- Do not cut trees within 100 feet of: campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads or developed recreation areas, experimental forests, designated wilderness areas, water bodies, active timber sales.



- Do not cut trees within 100 feet of paved roads and 50 feet from dirt roads.

- When you purchase the permit ask if there are any known "off limit" areas.

- Do not cut trees larger than 6 inches in diameter at chest height. Pack down limb piles low enough so they are within 2 feet of the ground.

- Cut your tree so remaining stumps will be less than 10" in height.

Be prepared for winter -- dress appropriately in warm clothing and make your day a safe one!

**White Mountain National Forest Offices:**

Pemigewasset Ranger District, 71 White Mountain Drive, Campton, NH, 603-536-6100  
 Saco Ranger District, 33 Kancamagus Highway, Conway, NH, 603-447-5448  
 Androscoggin Ranger District, 300 Glen Rd., Gorham, NH, 603-466-2713.

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# Santa Claus to arrive by helicopter at Aviation Museum

Kids, families are welcome to meet Saint Nick in person during two-hour midday stopover. Santa Claus is coming to town, and he's arriving by chopper. On Saturday, Dec. 10, Saint Nick will land via helicopter at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, 27 Navigator Road in Londonderry.

Touchdown is scheduled for 11 a.m. outside the Aviation Museum. All are welcome to attend and join in welcoming the jolly old elf. Families wishing to welcome the arrival of Santa's helicopter should be at the museum no later than 10:45 a.m. to park and then make their way to the landing observation area. After arriving, Santa will enter the museum, where he'll visit with children one-on-one.

Santa will be available until 1 p.m., when he'll depart by fire truck courtesy the Manchester Airport Fire Department, which will whisk him off to his next appearance. Children who speak to Santa will be rewarded with goodie bags given out by Santa's helpers. "It's become an annual tradition for Santa to visit us by helicopter, and we're pleased to continue it this year," said Jeff Rapsis, executive director of the aviation Museum. "This close to Christmas Eve, Santa



prefers to travel by chopper because the flying reindeer are resting up for the big night on Dec. 24," Rapsis said.

Santa's visit will take place rain or shine on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If the weather prevents Santa's chopper from flying, he'll arrive by fire truck instead. The Aviation Museum will be open free to visitors on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Following Santa's departure, regular admission prices will be charged from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Aviation Museum's store will be open throughout the day so visitors can enjoy holiday shopping. Besides Santa's arrival, Saturday, Dec. 10 also marks the debut of this year's "Holiday Festival of Toy Planes and Model Aircraft" inside the museum.

The exhibit, which runs through Sun- ▶

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day, Jan. 22, includes more than 2,000 aviation-related toys, games, and other items that celebrate the enduring childhood fascination with flight. This year's holiday exhibit will be highlighted by a "12 Planes of Christmas" scavenger hunt for the young (and young at heart) as well as a pair of custom-made mobiles hung with model planes that will fly in formation overhead.

"Many aviation careers started with a special model or toy plane under a tree or given as a birthday present," said Jeff Rapsis, the museum's executive director.

"Each year, we celebrate that connection by displaying aviation toys from our collection, some of which back to the days of Charles Lindbergh."

The exhibit will also include a special custom display of collectible and newly created aviation-themed posable dolls supplied by Underground Legion Custom Creations of Hollis, N.H.

The Aviation Museum is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 age 13 and up; \$5 age 6-12, seniors 65 and over, and veterans/active military; kids 5 and under free.

Santa's appearance at the Aviation Museum is made possible by generous supporters including Manchester-Boston



Regional Airport; CR Helicopters of Nashua; Signature Flight Services; and the Manchester Airport Fire Department. The Aviation Museum of N.H., located at 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, N.H., is a non-profit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization dedicated to celebrating New Hampshire's role in aviation history and inspiring tomorrow's aerospace professionals.

Named "Best Place to Take Kids" in southern New Hampshire in the 2022 Hip-poPress Readers Poll, the Aviation Museum of N.H. was recently awarded the prestigious



'Non-Profit Impact Award' by the Center for N.H. Non-Profits. For more information, visit [www.aviationmuseumofnh.org](http://www.aviationmuseumofnh.org) or call (603) 669-4820. Follow the Aviation Museum on social media at [www.facebook.com/nhahs](http://www.facebook.com/nhahs).

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## Developmentally appropriate ways for children to celebrate the holidays

Seeing the holidays through the eyes of a child is a remarkable experience. Children take extra delight in twinkling lights, festive songs and stories, and the excitement in the air. Involving our little ones in ongoing celebrations not only offers great bonding opportunities, but it can also benefit their long-term growth.

Experts at Kiddie Academy Educational Child Care recommend using children's excited anticipation of the holiday season to engage them in activities that will encourage skill building. Opportunities to focus on motor skills, character development, creativity, focus, memory and more are present through many different activities we do to celebrate the season each year.

Here are four activities that will subtly activate physical, emotional and cognitive development:

### ■ Baking cookies

"Think about all the steps that go into baking, from scooping and measuring to mixing and pressing cookie cutters into the dough. All these hands-on skills are beneficial to promoting fine motor and early math skills in children," said Joy Turner, vice president of education for the Kiddie Academy brand. Not only is this activity the

most delicious of them all, but baking and decorating cookies is a great way to increase children's upper body strength, pincer grasp, hand/eye coordination and more. Invite your children to stir, roll, touch, smell, feel, count and (safely) taste your cookie creations for a full sensory experience.

### ■ Making homemade cards and decorations

Creative growth can be realized by making crafts like homemade holiday cards or wrapping paper. Let your children color, cut out shapes, glue and write on the cards to practice dexterity, handwriting and visual processing skills. "There are many benefits to consistently offering ways to get our children's creative juices flowing while encouraging open-ended exploration," said Turner. "As long as you provide age-appropriate materials, you can let your children have the freedom to create whatever they can imagine." Take stamps and decorate plain brown paper and ask your children to help you wrap gifts in it. Build a popsicle-stick kinara, Christmas tree or menorah to focus on engineering basics. Use a hole punch to allow tree lights to shine through cardstock ornaments while building hand strength.

Find activities that are fun and that also focus

on necessary abilities.

### ■ Building a countdown chain

No matter which holiday is celebrated in your home, you can create a countdown chain to build anticipation for it. Use strips of construction paper and tape or glue to build a chain with a pattern of alternating colors and one link for each day until the big event. Your children's brains will have to access memory to remember to remove a link each day and you can prompt them to practice counting the remaining chain links as well.

### ■ Giving gifts and volunteering

Character values are a very important and easy skill to practice during the holiday season. Let your children see how it feels to select and give a special item to a family member or neighbor to build kindness and generosity. Gratitude and good citizenship can be developed by even our youngest children through helping others within the community by volunteering or donating to a toy or food drive. Because the whole purpose of the holidays is to show kindness and helpfulness, numerous benefits come from engaging children in these activities at a developmentally appropriate level.

'Tis the season to engage our children in festive fun - and watch them flourish! (BPT)

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