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FOR THE

Holidays

A special supplement to THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

Tuesday, November 4, 2025



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Tips To Make A Home More Accommodating For Holiday Guests

Millions of people host family and friends during the holiday season. According to a recent report from the travel and finance experts at Upgraded Points, 57 percent of adults surveyed planned to host a holiday gathering in 2024, while 70 percent of respondents indicated they planned to attend such celebrations. Hosting is a significant responsibility, but it's also a fun way to catch up with loved ones in a laid back environment. Chances to catch up are even stronger when hosting overnight guests, whose comfort should be a priority as hosts ready their homes for holiday celebrations. Hosts preparing to welcome loved ones into their homes this holiday season can take various steps to make their homes as accommodating as possible for overnight guests.

- **Offer a secluded spot to sleep.** The holiday season can be hectic, and it can be hard to keep things calm and quiet when returning home. That's especially true in homes with young children. Overnight guests who might be a little weary from traveling will undoubtedly appreciate a place away from the hustle and bustle to rest their heads. Though hosts must make due with the space they have, make a concerted effort to ensure residents remain quiet around guest rooms or other areas where overnight guests will be sleeping. If possible, choose a secluded spot away from areas of the home that tend to be noisy, such as the kitchen and living room/game room.
- **Offer some in-room entertainment.** Access to the internet and streaming services is nonstop in the modern world, and it can be a nice gesture to ensure overnight guests can stream their favorite content and stay connected during their stay. Hosts can outfit guest rooms with a smart TV for as little as \$100 and load it up with popular streaming apps so guests can watch an episode or two of their favorite show in private before calling it a night.
- **Offer kid-friendly creature comforts.** Adults may be accustomed to sleeping outside their own homes, but younger guests might not be as familiar or comfortable sleeping somewhere other than their own bedrooms. If young children will be staying overnight, hosts can consider putting them up in the same bedrooms as their own children, which can be especially fun when kids are roughly the same age. Additional kid-friendly creature comforts include a stuffed animal or two, an in-room night light and some storybooks on a bedside nightstand.
- **Include guests in fun traditions.** Tradition is a big part of the appeal of the holiday season, and hosts can make guests feel more welcome by inviting them to participate in their own family traditions. Expand family baking sessions to include overnight guests, encourage willing loved ones to pitch in when preparing family meals and let guests pick their favorite holiday film for a family movie night. Millions of people will host overnight guests this holiday season. Hosts can employ various strategies to ensure overnight guests feel welcome and comfortable during their stay.

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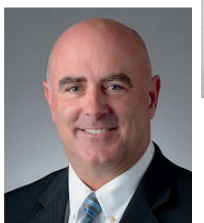
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Party Pointers for Holiday Hosts

Entertaining is par for the course from November through the end of December. The holiday season is an especially festive time of year, and there's no shortage of opportunities to celebrate.

Holiday hosts may wonder where to get started in regard to planning their events. It's easy to be overwhelmed by the process, but with some pointers just about anyone can have a holiday gathering worth remembering.

• **Don't be scared off by social media.** When Rebecca Jennings, Vox senior correspondent covering social platforms, was hosting Thanksgiving for the first time last year, she remarked that her social media feed was filled with tutorials that made her feel like everyone was doing it better than she. Although social media can be great for generating ideas, it also might put undue pressure on hosts who feel they need to measure up to the events being executed by professionals, or people with a lot more time on their hands. It's fine if a host can't make everything from scratch or doesn't have a home that looks like something out of a Hallmark Christmas movie. Guests won't be expecting perfection; they just want to have fun and spend time socializing.

• **Plan around the guest experience.** Instead of getting bogged down on details related to decor, holiday hosts should direct most of their attention to the guest experience. They can ask themselves if a guest will even care about something they are considering

having at the event. This can certainly save time and stress.

• **Keep everyone full.** Great food often is at the center of a holiday event, and the menu should be designed to be a crowd pleaser. Work with familiar ingredients that may be presented in unique ways. For example, a traditional caprese salad can be transformed into finger foods by alternating cherry tomatoes, chunks of mozzarella and leaves of basil on skewers. Don't forget classics like roasted meats, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rolls and butter, and other hearty items. They will fill guests up and keep them happy.

• **Lighten the hosting load.** Hosts can identify ways to alleviate stress and free up time to engage with guests. This may involve making the event a potluck where everyone is tasked with bringing a dish. Or, if budget allows, hire bartenders, caterers or a cleaning service to handle some jobs and free up time for hosts to mingle.

• **Plan for some entertainment.** Music and entertainment can set the tone of the party. Create a playlist that includes a mix of holiday favorites and other tunes. Hosts who want to go above and beyond may want to hire a DJ or live musicians, or enlist a karaoke company to get guests involved.

Entertaining during the holidays, whether it's a festive party or a formal dinner party, can go more smoothly with some simple planning.

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Great Christmas Stories For Children



December is filled with opportunities to make magical memories, particularly for families with young children. Christmas commands a lot of thought and attention, and parents know such efforts are worth it to see smiles on children’s faces. Stories help set the holiday scene and enable children to hold tight to all of the magic. Whether they are read together as a family or children read them on their own, these literary works can enhance special holiday moments.

• **“The Gift of the Magi”** by O. Henry: This story tells the tale of a young married couple who have to sacrifice in order to buy Christmas presents for one another.

• **“A Christmas Carol,”** by Charles Dickens: No Christmas season would be complete without reading (or watching) “A Christmas Carol.” When three ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge, he learns an important lesson about charity, friends and family.

• **“The Berenstain Bears Meet Santa Bear: A Christmas Book for Kids”** by Stan and Jan Berenstain: Kids of all generations have grown up reading Berenstain Bears books. This volume has Mama and Papa showing Sister and Brother that the true meaning of the holiday is about giving.

• **“Mr. Willowby’s Christmas Tree”** by Robert Barry: When Mr. Willowby’s tree arrives for Christmas, it is too tall for his parlor. He must cut off the top so it will fit, and that top is passed along again and again to spread holiday cheer.

• **“The Greatest Gift”** by Philip Van Doren Stern: Written in 1943, this story is about a man named George who is contemplating his life while standing on a bridge on Christmas Eve. This tale became the basis for the classic film, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

• **“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”** by Dr. Seuss: Famed children’s writer Dr. Seuss was a master of imbuing life lessons in his stories and this book is no different. Isolated and angry, the Grinch learns to appreciate his neighbors in Whoville and comes to realize that Christmas is about being with loved ones and not material gifts.

• **Gospels of Matthew (1 and 2) and Luke (1 and 2):** Families can read about the birth of Jesus Christ, whose birth is primarily narrated in these passages. Matthew focuses on the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, while Luke speaks to the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary, Christ’s birth and visits from shepherds.

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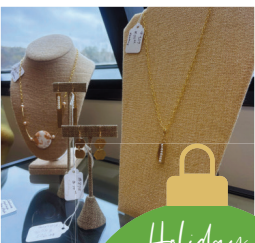


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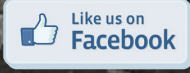
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MERRIMENT
MISTLETOE
REMINISCE
ROAST
STAR
TRAVEL
TREE SKIRT
WREATHS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Kitchen and Dining Tools No Holiday Host Should Be Without



Holiday hosting is a significant undertaking. The holiday season is a beloved time of year filled with merriment and anticipation. When accepting the responsibility of hosting, hosts are taking on the challenge to keep the festive vibes going, and that often involves meeting guests’ expectations for a special time of year. There’s no shortage of holiday traditions, but family meals are a notable and cherished custom in many households. Hosts planning family meals this holiday season can look to some particularly useful kitchen tools to make preparing and serving go smoothly.

Carving set

Carving sets may not get too much daily use, but they’re a must-have come the holiday entertaining season. Whether hosts are serving a Thanksgiving turkey, a Christmas goose or a holiday ham, a carving set can help make quick work of the main course when it comes time to serve the meal. A carving knife and fork can ensure slices of turkey, goose or ham are as beautiful to see as they are delicious to eat.

Steak knives

Despite their name, steak knives are not reserved for steak. A set of quality steak knives can make it easy to cut through any type of meat. That’s particularly important during a time of year like the holiday season when family meals tend to be formal sit-down dinners featuring entrées like holiday roasts or turkey.

Meat thermometer

Ensuring foods are cooked to the correct temperature is necessary for safety and serves to ensure guests will be impressed by the finished product. Meat thermometers let cooks know when meat, including beef and poultry, is cooked, saving them the hassle of cutting into the meat to determine doneness. Cutting into meat like steak can affect its flavor profile, as juices can pour out before they have a chance to be redistributed when the food is removed from the oven.

Prep bowls

Certain must-have holiday hosting tools are easily overlooked, and prep bowls likely fall into that category. Family meals during the holiday season tend to focus as much on side dishes as the main course, so hosts will need some good prep bowls to prepare the potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, and other sides. Collapsible prep bowls can be ideal for hosts with limited cabinet space.

Wine decanter

A wine decanter adds an elegant touch to a holiday dinner table, but this useful dining tool offers more than aesthetic appeal. Red wine may contain some sediment and even small bits of cork, and a decanter can filter and remove such residue. A decanter also can improve the flavor profile of some older wines, which some guests may find bitter. But the primary function of a wine decanter is to aerate the wine and allow it to absorb oxygen, which improves the flavor. Hosting a family meal during the holiday season is an honor, and it’s a responsibility that can be made easier with some essential kitchen and dining tools.

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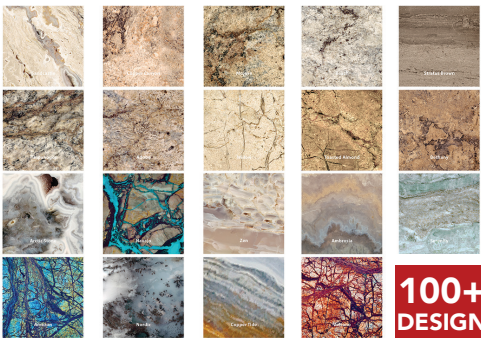
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Sugar Cookies For Your Holiday Baking Session



Baking cookies is a holiday tradition. Although there are many different cookie recipes out there, no cookie-baking session is complete without traditional sugar cookies. Sugar cookies are ideal for cutting and decorating, which makes them great selections for holiday baking sessions. This recipe for “Vanilla Bean Sugar Cookies” from “Butter, Flour, Sugar, Joy” (Sourcebooks) by Danielle Kartes is perfect for family baking sessions this holiday season.

Vanilla Bean Sugar Cookies

Yields two dozen cookies

Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups confectioner’s sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg
- Seeds scraped from one vanilla bean
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 pinch salt
- 4 to 6 cups confectioners’ sugar

In a stand mixer, with a hand mixer, or by hand, cream the sugar, butter, and cream cheese together in a large mixing bowl until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes; add the egg, vanilla, almond extract, and salt; mix well.

Add the flour and cream of tartar and mix by hand until it just comes together. Refrigerate the dough for at least 30 minutes, but overnight is best.

When you are ready to bake, preheat oven to 350° F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll the dough on a floured surface into a 1/4-inch thick rough circle and use your favorite cookie cutter to cut out shapes.

Place them on the prepared baking sheet, about 2 inches apart. Bake 12 to 14 minutes, until set.

Continue this process until you’ve used up all the dough. Cool cookies on sheets of foil and frost once completely cool. These cookies are fine to eat right away, but Kartes feels they get their signature touch when frosted and left out overnight. The author does not put them away until the next morning.

For the frosting, cream the butter, cream cheese, almond extract, and salt until light and fluffy; slowly add the confectioners’ sugar. Kartes likes hers less sweet, so she uses 4 cups of confectioners’ sugar, but you may use up to 6 cups. Feel free to color small bowls of the frosting and decorate the cookies with sprinkles or tiny candies.

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Christmas Eve Fun For Families

The day and evening before Christmas is a time of much anticipation for young children, particularly those awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. What children do not realize is their parents have been working hard behind the scenes for many weeks to help maximize the holiday magic, and Christmas Eve often is the final push to get everything done before the big day (and man in red) arrives. Keeping children happy and entertained on Christmas Eve can free up time for adults to check off their to-do lists and savor some of the holiday spirit themselves. Here are some traditions to explore on Christmas Eve that are entertaining for kids and adults.

- **Bake some cookies.** Santa is going to want a fresh batch of cookies to refuel for a long night of delivering presents. Therefore, having children prepare and bake some cookies can be a Christmas Eve tradition that keeps little ones occupied. When cooled, and after sampling one or two themselves, kids can feel pride placing a dish of cookies out for the jolly old elf.
- **Decorate gingerbread houses.** Christmas Eve is a great night to decorate gingerbread houses. Families who do not freshly bake the panels for the gingerbread houses can rely on pre-made kits available at various stores. It's a smart idea to have some extra icing available, especially if kids are anxious to "glue" on extra candy embellishments.
- **Attend evening services.** Most churches hold Christmas Eve services, with some offering a Midnight Mass for parishioners. Spending time at these services enables families to slow down and celebrate their faith.
- **Do a Christmas pajama reveal.** It's traditional in some families to buy matching PJs to wear to bed on Christmas Eve and then lounge around in them on Christmas morning. Whoever is in charge of wrapping gifts can set apart the Christmas PJs by wrapping them in a different patterned paper. Then everyone opens the pajamas at the same time for the big reveal.
- **Leave out reindeer food.** Kids can have a fun time putting together a batch of special reindeer food. After all, Santa isn't the only one doing the heavy lifting delivering gifts; his reindeer probably get hungry, too. Reindeer food can be made using a few different ingredients, namely oatmeal, shredded carrots and glitter. Children can decide where to toss this reindeer food, with some opting to make a path along the front lawn leading toward the house.
- **Watch a holiday classic.** Choose a Christmas movie and gather the family around to watch it. Some options include "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "Miracle on 34th Street," "Elf," or "A Christmas Story." Set up a popcorn bar nearby where everyone can customize their popcorn with different add-ins, like chocolate candies, cheese or seasonings. Christmas Eve traditions can be fun for kids and families as they anticipate all the festivities to come on Christmas morning.

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A Dessert To Satisfy Your Holiday Season Sweet Tooth

Baking is a popular activity come the holiday season. Families may designate entire weekend afternoons to baking holiday goodies, and those efforts are much appreciated by the beneficiaries of all that time spent in the kitchen elbows deep in flour and confectioners' sugar.



Cookies tend to be a go-to holiday treat, particularly in households with young children who want to leave out something homemade for the jolly old elf on Christmas Eve. But there's also plenty of room to expand your horizons during holiday baking sessions with the family. A finished product like these "Toffee Cheesecake Bars" from "Taste of Home Healthy Cooking Cookbook" (RDA Enthusiast Brands) by the Taste of Home/Reader's Digest Kitchens can delight guests and might even compel the man in the red suit to smile even wider come the night before Christmas.

Toffee Cheesecake Bars

Makes 2 1/2 dozen

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- 1/2 cup cold butter
- 1 8-ounce package reduced-fat cream cheese
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups milk chocolate English toffee bits, divided

1. In a small bowl, combine the flour, confectioners' sugar, cocoa, and baking soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press in the bottom of an ungreased 13-inch x 9-inch baking dish. Bake at 350° F for 12 to 15 minutes or until set.

2. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add the milk, eggs and vanilla; beat until smooth. Stir in 3/4 cup toffee bits. Pour over crust. Bake 18 to 22 minutes longer or until center is almost set.

3. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining toffee bits; cool completely. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours overnight.

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Learn To Decorate Like A Holiday Pro

The sights and sounds of the holiday season help to make this a special time of year that people look forward to. With its magical moments and opportunities to gather with family and friends, the holiday season is a period to celebrate and, of course, decorate. According to an informal poll from the decorating, culture and travel experts at Veranda, 65 percent of respondents said that the time to decorate for Christmas is right after Thanksgiving or the first week of December.

Many stores now display holiday decorations and other wares concurrently with Halloween and fall items, so people can plan their decorating early if they expect to be adding to their holiday collections. These tips can help with decorating and make anyone deck the halls like a professional.

- **Choose your theme and color palette.** Consider a specific style of decorating, whether it's traditional, minimalist, country, or even winter wonderland. Then select a few coordinating colors to complement the theme and existing items in your home. Pick up these items as they become available in stores, as holiday merchandise often goes quickly.
- **Focus on a few key areas.** While it's tempting to decorate an entire home, pros know to focus on key areas like tables, doorways and mantles to create the most visual interest. This also makes decorating more manageable.
- **Rely on the rule of thirds.** Create balanced and visually pleasing arrangements by dividing the space visually into nine equal parts, symbolically drawing two equally spaced horizontal and two equally spaced vertical lines. Designers often place important elements along these lines or at their intersections to create a more visually balanced and appealing composition. When grouping decorative items together on shelves and tables, threes often look best.
- **Remove clutter.** It's important to declutter a space prior to introducing holiday elements in order to create a clean and organized look. Store additional decorations and knickknacks until after the holiday season.
- **Start with lights.** It's often easier to decorate by beginning with lights first, and then weaving additional decorations into the mix. Build on lights with garlands and accent items.
- **Less is often more.** Keep the decorating simple. A few elements here and there can have a much more effective impact than several things that draw attention away from one another. When taking out holiday decorations this year, use it as an opportunity to assess and cull the collection, which will make things easier next year.
Homeowners can decorate their spaces for the holidays effectively with some guidelines professional designers often use.

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Three wooden nutcracker figurines are displayed against a background of soft, out-of-focus white lights. The figure on the left is a green soldier with a tall green hat, a white beard, and a green tunic with gold trim and buttons; it holds a large sword. The middle figure is a white winter character with a white hat and coat, a long white beard, and a small green tree on its chest. The figure on the right is a red Santa Claus figure with a red hat, a long white beard, and a red tunic with a yellow sash; it holds a small gift box.

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A portrait of a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a white button-down shirt under a black blazer. The background is a blurred office interior with large windows and modern decor.

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A modern kitchen with a large white countertop island. The island has a wooden base and is surrounded by four white bar stools with grey upholstered seats. Three black pendant lights hang over the island. The background features white cabinetry, a stainless steel refrigerator, and a large window. The ceiling is white with recessed lighting.



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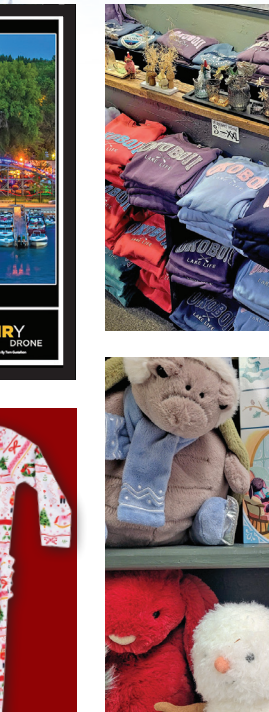
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TIPS for First-Time Holiday Hosts

The holiday season is a busy time of year. From holiday shopping to readying the home for guests, there's no shortage of things to accomplish in a relatively brief amount of time. Seasoned holiday enthusiasts may be ready to put their game faces on and tackle tasks with ease. But for first-time holiday hosts, the prospect of crossing items off to-do lists may require a little extra assistance. According to Dr. Vanessa Kennedy, a clinical psychologist at Driftwood Recovery, holiday hosting can "lead to the pressure to curate picture-perfect moments, creating stress and anxiety." The following are pointers those new to holiday hosting can employ to simplify the process and enjoy the holidays a little more.

- **Do as much prep work in advance as possible.** Giving yourself extra time to get things done can help immensely. Grocery shop one day, prepare food the next, clean the house one day, and set the table or arrange decor on another. Minor tasks can be left for the morning of the day guests arrive.
- **Cook and freeze items.** Utilize recipes that enable you to cook in bulk and then store foods until you need them. Casseroles, baked pasta dishes, freezable soups, and ready-to-bake cookie doughs made in advance will save a lot of time closer to the holidays.
- **Stock the pantry.** If holiday hosting involves overnight guests, be sure to keep easy items on hand so guests can help themselves. Dry goods or pre-packaged muffins for breakfast, chips or pretzels for late-night snacks, granola bars, or store made croissants can fit the bill. Put everything in a dedicated basket so guests can grab items as needed. Stock the refrigerator with water, seltzer, iced teas, and sodas, and make a full pot of coffee in the morning so guests can pour their own.
- **Avoid complicated cocktails.** You don't want to be stuck mixing drinks all evening. Instead, make it simple for guests to help themselves. Wine, beer, premade punches, or even one specialty drink are ideal.
- **Consider hiring a caterer.** If the idea of a home-cooked meal feels like climbing Mount Everest, swap out some items for store-bought alternatives, or work with a favorite restaurant or caterer to secure foods that only need to be reheated and served.
- **Free up closet and room space.** Guests will be coming with a lot of stuff, particularly if you live in a cold climate. Make room in the entry closet for guests' coats and boots. Be sure you can accommodate suitcases or overnight bags. Set aside an area where guests can deposit their wrapped gifts. Holiday hosting can be a whirlwind of activity, but novice hosts can quickly get into the swing of things.

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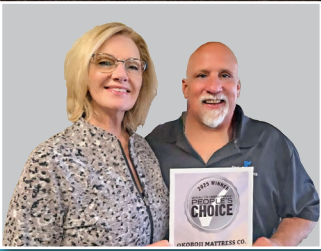
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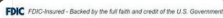
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Classic, Family-Friendly Holiday Traditions

Tradition figures prominently in many households throughout the holiday season. Whether it's decorations like a Chanukah menorah or a Christmas tree, or a family gathering on Christmas Eve, there's no shortage of traditions to make this unique time of year even more special. Young families or first-time hosts may want to incorporate as many popular traditions into their seasonal celebrations as possible. Doing so can lay a foundation for years of celebrations to come. As families prepare to spend this holiday season at home, they can incorporate some of these classic traditions into their celebrations.

Family baking sessions

What would the holiday season be without baked goods? While it's easy to purchase premade goodies at grocery stores and other retailers, homemade concoctions made in the comforts of one's own kitchen alongside loved ones is a classic and cherished tradition in many households.

Letters to Santa

Santa Claus makes his presence known one night a year, and writing letters to the jolly old elf is a custom with a lengthier history than some may realize. Though it might not be possible to pinpoint precisely when the first letter to Santa was written, historians believe the tradition began in the early nineteenth century. Roughly two centuries later, children's letters to Santa remain a popular tradition in many households and communities, and there's no stopping adults from writing letters to the man who calls the North Pole home.

Advent calendars

Advent calendars are another holiday season tradition with a history that dates back centuries. Historians believe the first Advent calendars were produced in Germany around 1850. Faithful celebrants can now find Advent calendars in many forms, and some retailers even sell craft kits that enable families to create their own calendars at home. Homemade Advent calendars can be a unique way for families to put a relatively new spin on a centuries-old holiday tradition.

Christmas cards

Christmas cards may seem like a relatively recent phenomenon, but that's not the case at all. Prior to 1843, many Christmas celebrants shared handwritten letters with friends during the holiday season. Come 1843, Sir Henry Cole commissioned designer John Colcott Horsley to design a Christmas card that Cole could then send to various friends. Christmas cards remain a popular means to spreading holiday cheer, and families can design cards together and work as a team to get them ready to send. These are just a handful of the many holiday season traditions families can embrace this December.

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TIPS to Keep Holiday Guests Entertained

Gone are the days when extended families live in close proximity to one another. Ours is now a global society, and it is not unheard of for people to live on the opposite side of the country or even the globe from their parents and siblings. But come the holiday season, families often congregate at one place so they can spend time together. That means that out-of-town guests may be spending a few days with holiday hosts to maximize their visits. According to Diane Gottsman, a national etiquette expert and owner of The Protocol School of Texas, a weekend is typically sufficient for a nice visit, while anything more than three days can be challenging for hosts, particularly if guests are not being helpful.



Hosting house guests for a few days requires hosts to keep guests engaged. Although the actual holiday itself provides ample opportunity for entertainment, hosts may need additional ideas to quell boredom if visits stretch for more than one day. Here are some ideas for making spirits bright without having to stress too much.

Create a guest basket - Offer some in-house entertainment for guests. This can include best-selling novels, a book of word games, an adult coloring book, or some small craft kits picked up at the store. This option enables guests to self-soothe if boredom strikes.

Host a movie marathon - When guests visit, hosts can whip up some microwave popcorn and additional snacks and cue up a few different films. They can be holiday classics or movies that will bring back fond memories.

Take a trip - This time of year there are plenty of activities going on. Plan a drive over to a Christmas tree farm that may be offering rides through the fields or has a hot cocoa station. Walk down the main street of a quaint local town and savor all of that cozy flavor. Time a trip to a tree lighting or another holiday-related special event, or drive around at night and look at neighborhood lighting displays.

Make an edible craft - Spend some time in the kitchen making gingerbread cookies or another relatively easy holiday treat. Guests can customize their desserts with colored sprinkles or other embellishments.

Set up Christmas karaoke - Get everyone in the holiday spirit by streaming instrumental tracks of favorite holiday carols and songs. Everyone takes turns singing a tune, whether they're great singers or not. The fun is in giving it a shot and laughing along the way.

Go on a crawl - Whether it's to visit area pubs, diners, dessert shops, or coffee spots, pick a few different places to stop in so everyone can get some fresh air and have a little fun.

Entertaining guests for the holidays requires some creative thinking and a willingness to have a little fun.

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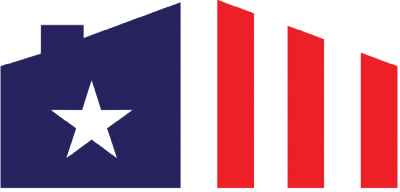
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