



NOTE: Letters Are Typed As They Were Written

# 25 Days of Traditions

Everyone knows the best gift of all is the gift of time. And what better time of year than the holidays to do things with friends and family? Here are 25 traditions you can practice this December.

**G**ame night. There are holiday-specific games out there, but you can't go wrong by sticking with a classic. Check out your local toy and game store for some family friendly games.

Christmas movie marathon. Too many choices to go wrong here. From the Griswolds to George Bailey, there's a classic for your family.

Caroling. Through your neighborhood or through your town, caroling is always more fun with friends.

Holiday baking. There is a recipe for every taste bud and every skill level. Check out online recipes for unique options. Many local grocery stores also offer holiday baking classes. Ask around for times and options.

Christmas lights. Put a little twinkle on your house or on your tree.

Choose a tree. Choosing a Christmas tree is a classic tradition with the added bonus of making your home smell amazing.

Wear Christmas pajamas. They don't have to match (but it's more fun if they do).



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Christmas cards. Make them or buy them, but please send them out.

Elf on the Shelf. Quickly becoming a cult classic.

Christmas cookie swap. This party's entire premise is all about you getting to sample cookies. The holiday joy is baked right in.

Angel tree. Be someone else's Santa.

Advent calendar. Counting down the days can be a

fun tradition for the entire family.

Ornaments. Give your kids or loved one a new ornament each year. Over the years, the tree itself will become a family album.

Make hot cocoa. Yum. There are many recipes out there to completely innovate this holiday treat.

Take a drive. Admire others' decorations.

Volunteer. This is a hard time of year for others. Turn the act of kindness into a tradition.

Say thank you. To your friends, to your kids, to your mom, anyone that has had an impact on you.

Get a photo with Santa. These will amuse you for years to come.

Take in a show. Or a second-grade Christmas pageant. Support local

artists and students by showing up.

Get dressed up. Put on your best and walk the square. There is something special about getting your cheeks pink that sparks joy this time of year.

Get a toy, give a toy. Teach your children to donate unwanted or old toys to others.

Treat those you depend on. Take cookies to the po-

lice station, the fire station and to your Post Office.

Make a snowman. Or, if you live in a warm climate, decorate a gingerbread house.

Decorate a gingerbread house. It shouldn't be an "either/or" situation.

Leave cookies for Santa. He's got a long night. He appreciates it.

# Merry Christmas



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