

1. **Have a cookie exchange party.** Every guest brings their favorite holiday cookie to share with the rest of the party guests. Guest eat cookies and take some home. Bring recipes to exchange too.
2. **Go Christmas caroling.** Bring along hot chocolate and spread Christmas cheer to all your neighbors!
3. **Elf on the Shelf.** Each day your kids will look for Santa's little helper and see what silly antics he has been up to.
4. **Check out a local light display.** Check local listings or our [Facebook page](#) for local favorites. You can even stay in your car and drive through them if it is too cold outside.
5. **Pick out a new ornament for each child.** Kids loves hanging their own special ornament on the tree every year!
6. **Angel Tree.** Many department stores have an angel tree where they give information about a child in need. Purchase presents for the "angel" you choose from the tree.
7. **Donate food to your local food bank.** Food banks are very busy this time a year and are always in need. Donate non-perishable items to [Second Chance food pantry](#).
8. **Make Christmas candy.** Give all your neighbors a special treat!
9. **Write letters to Santa.** Let each child write a letter to Santa and mail it off to the North Pole!
10. **Have a gingerbread house making contest.** Buy a kit from your local store or use graham crackers, frosting and candies.
11. **Go to a Christmas concert.** Most cities have special concerts during the holiday season, and many of them are free! Bring your family to hear the beautiful songs of the Christmas season
12. **Watch a Christmas movie.** *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is a good one.
13. **Make a countdown to Christmas chain.** Let the kids cut strips of paper and hook them together to create a countdown chain. Take turns taking a ring off of the chain each day.
14. **Make some holiday fudge.** And share it with your postman, mayor, police, local employers, etc.
15. **Have a Christmas campfire.** Make a fire in the fireplace and share your favorite Christmas memories.
16. **Have an ornament exchange.** Get together and bring an ornament to exchange. You will have quite the collection in years to come!
17. **Have a "crazy dinner".** Go to the store and give each child \$3-\$5 to spend on any food they want. Come home and prepare all the food and eat by candlelight.
18. **Make some Homemade Crafts.** Share with family and friends.
19. **Decorate Christmas sugar cookies.** Let the kids decorate the cookies with frosting and candy!
20. **Bring/Buy dinner to/for a less fortunate family.** Take a turkey dinner to a family in need.
21. **Visit Santa Claus.** Kids love being able to visit Santa and tell them what is on their wishlist!
22. **Have a Christmas talent show.** Get the family together and each person shares a talent.
23. **Have a hot chocolate bar.** Make a big batch of hot chocolate and arrange lots of toppings and treats to flavor your drinks!
24. **Read the [Christmas Story](#) and remember the real reason we celebrate.** You can invite your children to act out the nativity.
25. **Have family game night.** Play games or put a Christmas puzzle together.