



2022-2023 Winter Fun Ideas

This 6 page list has a variety of fun ideas for activities at home and out in the community. Links are offered for quick access. Information is accurate as of November 25, 2022.

Online calendars and ideas: [Twin Cities Family Fun 2021](#) , [Activities in Plymouth](#)
[Twin Cities and Minnesota Holiday Light Displays/](#) (Calendar of events)
[Santa Visits & Events \(Twin Cities Family Fun\)](#)

Seasonal Events

SPECIFIC DATES	
Canadian Pacific Railroad Holiday Train Tuesday 12/13/22 Golden Valley 4:45 * St Louis Park 6:00 * Wednesday 12/14/22 Loretto 4:15 Buffalo 6:00 *	
Holiday at the Hilde Santa, reindeer, music, festivities	December 4 4:00-7:00 3500 Plymouth Blvd. Plymouth, Minnesota 55447
Orono Golf Course Tree Lighting and Fireworks Flyer with events	December 3, 2022 5:00-7:00 265 Orono Orchard Road
Lord Flectcher's Sunday Santa Brunch	December 22, 2022 Reservations required
Birches on the Lake Breakfast with Santa	November 27, 2022 (one date only)
SEVERAL DATES	
GLOW HOLIDAY FESTIVAL CHS Field (vSaints field holiday lights) This year, there is more than a drive-through	Nov. 23, 2022 – Jan. 1, 2023. Tickets: \$12.75-\$20.75/pp. 360 N Broadway St, St Paul, MN 55101
Light up the Lake - Free Carriage Rides (Wayzata)	December 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 175:00-8:00
2022 Winter Light Festival at the MN Landscape Arboretum 3675 Arboretum Dr, Chaska	Date: Sun, Nov 27 2:30 – 4:00 PM (Tickets are required) 📍 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - Advance
Holly Trolley Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, 2330 W 42nd St, Minneapolis, MN 55410 Take a trolley ride with Santa/toast marshmallows on a fire.	Saturdays and Sundays, November 26-27th & December 3-4th, 2022. \$5/rider.
Holidazzle @ Loring Park	November 25 - Dec 18
Northern Express Camp Fire Minnesota 3300 Tanadoona Dr., Excelsior, MN	Dec. 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 Fri: 12:00 - 5:30, Sat: 10:30 - 5:30, Sun: 12:00 - 5:30
Santa at Minnetonka Orchard + classes	December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 Tickets

Drive thru Events

<p>Severs Lights in Shakopee Reservations/Tickets required</p>	<p>November 24-January 3rd, 2023 Tickets for peak dates (Fridays and Saturdays as well as 12/16-12/23) or non-peak dates (most Sundays and weekdays). When you buy tickets, you must select an hour-long time slot (5PM-9PM on Sundays and weekdays, 5PM-10PM on weekends and the week of Christmas). You are free to arrive any time within your chosen time slot, and if you are running a little late (or early) for your time slot, you do not need to let us know—we're happy to be flexible.</p>
<p>Lights at Fisher's Place, Plymouth MN</p>	<p>Display runs through Dec 31, 5:30-9:30 Sunday-Thursday, and 5:30-10:00 Friday-Sat nights.</p>
<p>Nature Illuminated, MN Zoo</p>	<p>Dec. 2-Jan.16th *Must reserve a spot and get tickets online. There is a walking option available</p>

Other events:

[Fire and Ice-City of Plymouth](#) February 4, 2023

[Holidazzle Market at Loring Park](#) November 25th -December 18th

[Dayton's Market](#) November 17th- January 13th, 2023

[Arboretum Drive Through Lights](#) November 17-January 1, 2023

[Excelsior Outdoor Market \(November 25-27th\)](#)-tkts required

[STAGES Theater:](#)Rudolph November 18th-December 27th

[Nutcracker Ballet@Eden Prairie HS](#)

[2022 Ice Castles in New Brighton](#)

[St Paul Winter Carnival 2022](#)

[Twin Cities Holiday Markets list \(Mpls Magazine\)](#)

[Children's Theater Company](#) *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

[Nutcracker Mini](#) Lakeville Area Arts Center Nov 29, 11:00 AM – 7:30 PM 20965 Holyoke Ave

Outdoor Fun

<p>Three Rivers Park District (COVID-19 INFO) MN Arboretum – Learning Center *Make reservation Sculpture Garden Taylors Falls – Pot Holes St Park (aka Interstate Park)* Online only permit required-limited winter parking Westwood Nature Center trails open, visitor ctr closed Dodge Nature Center limited access (no buildings) Woodlake Nature Center Minnesota State Parks Gale Woods Farm Lebanon Hills Regional Park Central Park in Maple Grove Murphy's Landing</p>

Indoor Places to go to/Attractions/Events:

<p>Bowling – Tuttles, Medina bowling, Park Tavern, Pinstripes Backyrd and Brookview -Limited capacity 316 Brookview Parkway S Golden Valley, MN 55426 Can Can Wonderland (St. Paul) (indoor mini golf & arcade) Children’s Museum Chanhassen Dinner Theater Choo Choo Bob’s -west end NEW LOCATION 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends Crayola Experience Edinborough Kid Create Studio (Eden Prairie) Playuseum @ Ridgedale Playground Plaza Maple Grove Indoor Playground Hennepin County Libraries (Wayzata, Ridgedale, Plymouth, Maple Grove are nearby) Menards (kids like to ride up the escalator in a cart!)</p>	<p>Como Zoo Reservations required (free - donations accepted) Rad Zoo (Medford Outlet Mall) Reptile Attraction Kiddywampus Maple Grove Comm. Ctr .Maple Maze, Ice Arena, Pool (Entry fees) Minnesota History Center Minnesota Zoo *Need reservation Minneapolis Institute of Arts Old Log Theater Plymouth Community Center Activity Wing/ KUBE Sea Life MOA Mall of America SeaQuest Roseville Stages Theater Science Museum The Works Technology Museum Transportation Museum Scheel’s Cabela’s Exotic and domestic animal mounts on display Minisota Play Cafe (Maple Grove)</p>
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Craft Places and at home ideas//Supplies to buy

<p>Boxes-make into lots of things (Michaels has a giant coloring box house) Cardboard house-oriental trading.com Get Crafty with kits or random lost and found items or use recycled bottles/boxes</p> <p>Craft Supplies to have on hand: White art paper in sheets or on a roll (Michael’s) Painter’s Tape Stickers Markers/Crayons/Scissors/Pipe Cleaners/Construction Paper/Dot markers/Water Color Paints (teach “Water 1st-Paint next - Paper”) Paint with water (encapsulated) coloring books Holiday crafts or kits</p>	<p>Target crafts on sale after the holidays Make sock puppets Do art activities-lots of supplies at Lakeshore Learning, Michael’s, Joanne’s Costco sells a giant craft jar ArtScraps Color Me Mine Heartfelt crafts can be completed in store by appointment only Pom poms/Cotton Balls</p>
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At-home and yard activities

Indoors

Create a “crash pad” with pillows, blankets & cushions
Run through an obstacle course - (time completions)
Eat popsicles in the tub
Ring toss/bean bag toss
Play I spy- on car rides or in waiting rooms
Old crib mattress on floor to jump on
Mini trampolines
Build indoor forts
Create a grocery store play area
Dance party
Riding toys in the basement
Board games
Fold laundry
Hide and seek (add a flashlight when it’s dark)
Indoor picnic
Tea party
Puzzles/Books/Board Games
Make Dough Christmas Ornaments-Bake & Paint
Play “Simon Says”
Visit a construction site & watch the action
Scavenger hunt (do it with a flashlight too)-make photos of indoor or outdoor items to find or hide small things around the house to find
Baking
Coloring /sticker time
Dry erase markers on the inside of a window
Make a fort or set up a tent inside
Beach balls - in the house or outside
Write and mail a letter to a friend
Hide a bin of forgotten toys - bring out after a few weeks/rotate toys

Sensory

[Homemade Kinetic Sand recipe](#)

Water beads in a bin
Snow sensory bin (using an under bed storage box)
Sponges filled with water
[Shaving cream and sand mixed in a sensory bin](#)
Cornstarch and water on a tray or cookie sheet
Shaving cream in the bathtub or on a tray
Kinetic sand
Bring your sand and water table in and fill with different things to play with or create a small version with a clear storage box or wash basin. Use snow, beans, rice, water for different sensory experiences.
Build a [Water pouring station](#)
[Homemade finger paint](#) recipe
[Experiment with vinegar, water and baking soda](#)
[Play with colored ice cubes](#)
Long bath times “just for fun”
Bubbles
Bath toys (use Playmobile aqua theme)

[Playdough Recipe](#)

3 Cups water
Food coloring or Kool-aid (mix into the water before pouring into the flour mixture)
6 t. Cream of Tartar
3 cups flour or gluten free bisquick
3/4 cup salt
3 Tablespoons oil
In a heavy pan, mix water, food coloring, and cream of tartar. Separately, blend flour and salt. Add to water mixture in pan. Add oil and stir well. Cook and stir until it looks a bit like mashed potatoes. Some areas will look dry while others will look too wet. Stir frequently to prevent burning. Turn out on waxed paper or cutting board. Form into a ball. After a few minutes knead as it cools. If it is sticky add more flour. Store in a plastic bag. Keeps longer in refrigerator.

Virtual Fun Spots

[Winter Carnival Virtual Family Days](#) January 30th
[17 Famous Art Museums You Can Visit from Your Living Room](#) Recommended for families
Includes: Met Museum for Kids

- [Explore | MetKids](#)

[Children's Museum of Indianapolis - Museum at Home](#)
[Mars with the Curiosity Visit Mars on the Curiosity Rover for a virtual ride-along](#)
[KidsQuest Children's Museum, Bellevue, WA:](#)

- [Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France](#)
- [Museo Frida Kahlo, Mexico](#)

[25 Best Nature Webcams for Science Learning at a Distance](#) (Some are still working while others are not)

Including:

- [Seattle Sea Otter Cam](#)
- [California Academy of Sciences Penguin Cam](#)
- [Bear Watching Transylvania Live Animal Cam](#)
- [Aquarium of the Pacific Shark Lagoon Cam](#)
- [Bella Hummingbird Nest + Many more!](#)

[Home Safari Resources - Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden®](#)

[National Park Virtual Tours](#)

[Monterey Bay Aquarium, CA Guided learning activities](#)

[Discovery Education Virtual Field Trips](#)

[Music Together "Hello Everybody APP"](#)

[daily YouTube](#) streams (at-home activities centered around art, math and science plus storytime.

[The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia](#)

[Minnesota Science Museum Learn from Home](#)
[Museum of Science + Industry, Chicago Virtual tour of the heart](#)

[Museum of Science + Industry, Chicago - Robot game: Twitch](#)

[Raptor center: digital programs](#)

The Museum of Failure (MOA)

[American Museum of Natural History, New York](#)

The American Museum of Natural History has [Ology](#), an entire website for kids to explore. Each section lets kids choose an "ology" to learn about, like paleontology or archaeology, and includes coordinating games, videos from resident scientists and activities.

[National Air and Space Museum, Washington](#)

[Tour the Halls. see Planes.](#)

[Pilot Pals game](#)

Restaurants (links not checked)

[Lord Fletcher's Sunday Santa Brunch](#)

[Birch's on the Lake](#) basement

[Crisp and Green](#)

[Noodles](#)

[El Rodeo](#)

[D'Amico's](#)

[Chipotle](#)

[Yum](#)

[Snuffy's](#)

[Panera](#)

[Original Pancake House](#)

[Station Pizzeria](#)

[Grocer's Table](#)

[Luce Line Brewery](#)

[McDonald's @Annapolis \(play area\)](#)

[Ben and Jerry's](#)

[Cherry Berry](#)

[Gold Nugget Tavern](#)

[Grizzly's](#)

[Chuck E. Cheese](#)

[Broadway Pizza](#)

[Mort's Deli](#)

[Cheesecake Factory](#)

[Licks Ice Cream](#)

[Red Robin](#)

[Lucky 13](#)

[3 Squares](#)

[Lookout Bar & Grill](#)

[Northern Tap House](#)

[YUM Kitchen & Bakery](#)

[\(Minnetonka @ Shady Oak and St Louis Park](#)

[Denny's](#)

[Good Earth](#)

[Hello Pizza](#)

[Adele's frozen custard](#)

[Edina creamery](#)

[Grand ole creamery](#)

[Honey & Mackies](#)

[Sebastian Joe's](#)

[Maynard's](#)

[BLVD](#)

[Peg's Countryside Cafe](#)

Day Trips: links not checked	<u>Get-Away Destinations/Out of town fun</u>
<p> Wild Mountain Lark Toys Children's Museum of Southern MN St Paul An Indoor Water park Stillwater, MN Wildlife Science Center (Stacy, MN) Lifetime Athletic Club Paw Patrol Playground @ Mall of America </p>	<p> 25 top Family Vacations in MN & WIS Alexandria, MN Bemidji, MN Brainerd, MN Duluth, MN Lutsen, MN North Shore, MN Stillwater, MN Two Harbors, MN Walker, MN Black Hills/Rapid City, SD Sioux Falls, SD Door County, WI Wisconsin Dells, WI </p>

A well packed car for winter weather

<u>General needs for kids</u>	<u>Essentials for cold weather</u>	<u>Essentials for winter driving</u>
Snacks Hand sanitizer Hand warmers Diapers/Wipes Band-aids Water bottles Potty chair for potty training Permanent marker (for labeling needs) Plastic bags for wet/dirty clothes Change of clothes	Extra clothes/socks Sweatshirts/jackets Extra hats and mittens Boots Snow pants Blankets	Jumper cables Scraper for clearing windshield Shovel to scrape snow away from tires Flashlight with extra batteries Bright colored scarf to attract attention in an emergency.