

Christmas Activities



Ugly Sweater Contest Over the top Christmas sweaters are ironically popular right now. Instruct your staff to find and wear the most over the top Christmas sweater. Residents can vote for winners in categories, such as tackiest, ugliest, funniest, most festive, and most sparkly.

Candy Cane Fishing Make two or more “fishing” poles using a dowel, string and a candy cane. Attach the candy cane to the end of the string so it hangs like a fish hook. Stand 5 candy canes in a cup or can. Have the residents use their fishing poles to “catch” candy canes.



Do You Hear What I Hear? Get 7 gift boxes, fill them with different quantities of jingle bells (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35), and have the participants lift, rattle and listen to the boxes to help them arrange the boxes in order from least to greatest number of bells.



Roll a Reindeer Game [Roll a Reindeer](#) game is slight twist on Bingo. Using the roll of the dice, players attempt to create a reindeer face.

Silver Bells Memory Game You will need several Hershey Kisses, dot stickers, and a sharpie. Write numbers, words, or shapes on the stickers (make sure to write two of each so you have pairs). Place the stickers on the bottom of the kisses. Set the kisses in rows on a table. Take turns turning the kisses over two at a time. If you get a match, you get the kisses.



Gingerbread Houses Making easy gingerbread houses using graham crackers is a great intergenerational activity. Everyone enjoys the opportunity to be creative and sample sweets at the same time. [Gingerbread Houses](#)

You've Been Jingled This game is like the old tradition of leaving someone May Day flowers, but with a twist. As the recipient of a "Jingle," you have also been invited to participate in the game by jingling others. You "jingle" someone by leaving a small bag full of Christmas surprises hanging on their door, making sure they don't catch you. [Jingled](#)



Hum That Carol Game Write the names of Christmas songs on slips of paper (2 of each song). Then put as many pairs of songs as you have pairs of people in a bag. Let each person draw a slip of paper out, not showing it to anyone. Instruct the people that they are to begin humming the song on their slip of paper when you say "go." The object of the game is to locate the other person humming the same song that you are humming. When the partners find each other they hold hands and begin to sing the words to their song! They win the prize! It's great fun with a large group. Make sure you spread everyone around the room to begin with and mix up the slips really well.



Christmas You'll need 2 decks of cards and 6 to 8 small, inexpensive, unwrapped gifts or "prizes." Shuffle each deck well. Distribute one deck as evenly as possible



among the participants. Keep the other deck for yourself. Now one-by-one, call out the cards in your hand. The person who has that particular card may select one prize from the table. Other players must note well who takes which prize. Once they have made their choice, they should try to keep the prize

hidden on their person. Continue until all the prizes are distributed. Now comes the fun part. Keep calling off the cards and the person who has the next card must try to remember who has what prize. If they want the key ring and know John has it, they must indicate this by stating "John, I'll take the key ring." John must then give the key ring to that person. John could also win it back later if he is lucky enough to remember who has it. If a player "misses" by incorrectly matching a prize to a player, he forfeits that turn. Play continues until all cards have been called. Whoever ends up with a prize gets to keep it.

Christmas Card Toss Get about 10-20 Christmas cards of various sizes. Place a laundry basket about six feet away from the participants. Have each participant stand at a specific place and throw the cards at the basket. The person who gets the most cards in the basket wins the game.



Reindeer Antler Games Hand each team one pair of pantyhose -- avoid support types that are too tight. Also hand out one balloon to each team player. If the teams are small, give 2 balloons per person (each team should have about 8 balloons). When you say "go," the teams race to make "reindeer antlers" by blowing up the balloons and stuffing them into the pantyhose. Then one team member wears the "antlers" and sings the first verse of Jingle Bells. The first one to do so wins for the team, and even after one team wins, let everyone complete the task for a reindeer group picture.



Back to Back Game Two people sit back to back. One person is given an object, such as a candy cane or a small ornament, and the other given paper and pencil. Without revealing what the object is, the person with the object has to describe to the person drawing it what they have to draw, i.e. draw an oblong at the top left hand corner. Now draw a straight line diagonally across the page, etc. What the final picture ends up like will depend entirely on how well the person describes and how the other person interprets the instructions!

12 Days of Christmas Fun Each of the 12 days of Christmas corresponds to a month of the year. First day = January, second day = February, etc. When the verse corresponding to your birthday month is sung, you stand up; when it's finished you sit down. You also stand up whenever the gift for that day is sung in the chorus.



For example, if your birthday is in March, you would stand for "On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me three French hens" and ever after whenever "three French hens" is sung.

I Packed Santa's Bag Sit with your group around the room, so everyone can see one another. The first person starts by saying, "I packed Santa's bag and in it I put..." Then they say what items they packed, such as a teddy bear. You can pack Santa's bag with anything. So, the first person says their item, then the next person says, "I packed Santa's bag and in it I put a teddy bear, and a fruitcake..." The third person says, "...a teddy bear, a fruitcake, and a TV," and so on. Each person must say everything that was packed before and add their item. Another option is to pack Santa's bag in alphabetical order, making it easier to remember the items.



Christmas Stocking Guessing Game Supplies: Oversized stocking, holiday objects, pen and paper. Use one or two new, large Christmas stockings. Put objects that



you see or use around Christmas time into the stocking. If you have more than one stocking, make sure you put the same things in each Christmas stocking. Consider things like holly, scotch tape, ornament, pine cone, etc. Make sure you put about 20 to 25 different objects in the stocking. Tie a ribbon or rope around the opening to make sure nobody peeks. Give everyone a piece of paper and pass the Christmas stocking or stockings around at your party. Tell them how many objects are in the stocking, having them write down all they can feel. The game goes quicker with two stockings. The person who correctly guesses the most objects in the sock is the winner.

Partner Gift Wrap Supplies: wrapping paper, items needed for wrapping a gift. Select two teams to compete against each and let them know that they will be wrapping a gift. What they don't know is that they are wrapping the gift with only one hand per person.

Have each team member stand beside the other and now place each team member's inside arm around the waist of their teammate. Each team must work together to wrap their gift. The object is to see which team can wrap the present the best in the allotted time (5 minutes or less). The audience then judges best wrapped gift package.

Ornament Guess Play this game two ways. One, have guests guess the total number of ornaments on the tree, or have them guess the number of themed ornaments on your tree, like santas, reindeer, Disney characters.

If you have a theme or favorite type of collectible, use it. The winner of this contest is the person coming closest to the correct number without going over.

