# Christmas Fun!

#### **Secret Santa**

Get together a group of friends, family, or coworkers to draw each other's names to become their Secret Santa. The Secret Santa is given a wish list of gift ideas to choose from to give to their giftee. After opening their present, each one gets to guess which member of the group was their Secret Santa. For a fun twist on today's Secret Santa, try a website like SneakySanta.Com which is an online Secret Santa generator for your group. You can send out invitations, draw names, share wish lists, and even send each other "Sneaky Messages"!

#### Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Time to be creative! Make up teams, 2 to 4

people per team is good if you have a large group. Mix up the children and adults and give each team a number. We like to use premade gingerbread house kits. They have everything you need. If you want more variety, ask each guest to bring an edible decoration to share such as, mini marshmallows, gumdrops, mints, mini candy canes, ribbon candy, and any other candy you can think of. Each team will need their own work area so no one can steal their ideas! You can ask guests to bring card tables from home if you do not have enough room. Set a timer, usually an hour is good. When time is up, the judging begins. Each participant secretly votes on one house, not their own. Have them write down their team number choice and put their votes in a bowl. Then tally up the votes. Don't forget to take pictures of each team with their creation!

North Pole

## Saran Wrap

To prepare for this game, you start by wrapping the first gift, usually the best or most expensive, in a few layers of saran wrap. Then you continue to add gifts while wrapping the ball in different layers of saran wrap. The gifts do not need to be expensive. We like to get things like candy, gum, polish, lip balm, key chains, let your imagination guide you. You add a gift every few layers or so. It is more fun if there are more starting and ending layers throughout the game instead of wrapping the ball in one long piece of plastic wrap. The unwrapper wears oven mitts and they try to unwrap the gift until the person next to them rolls doubles and then the gift and oven mitts are passed on. Anv item they unwrap completely from the ball becomes theirs.

#### Christmas Cookie Party

This is one of those holiday activities that everyone loves. All of the guests, including the host, bake a set number of their favorite holiday cookies. At the party, they give all the other guests a half-dozen or so to take home. Then, everyone only has to bake one kind of cookie but they get to take home dozens of different cookies! The best part of a cookie exchange is getting to sample everyone's favorite recipes. It's even more fun if everyone writes down their recipes to share! This could even be done by dropping off your package of cookies at someone's door. A sort of "Christmas Cookie Train".



#### Christmas Gift Dice Game

This is a lot of fun! Everyone starts with a wrapped gift. Each player rolls one die and play continues to the left. Start with the birthday closest to Christmas.

Roll a 1 – they switch gifts with the person on their right. Roll a 2 – they switch gifts with the person on their left. Roll a 3 - Switch gifts with anyone in the circle AND unwrap the gift if it's not already unwrapped. Roll a 4 – Pick someone else in the group to open their gift. Roll a 5 - Keep your gift. Roll a 6 – Unwrap your gift. If it is already unwrapped, roll again.

North Pole

### White Elephant

start with everyone bringing a wrapped gift. Have numbers in a bowl for each person to draw so everyone gets a number.

# 1 opens a wrapped gift, and the turn ends. Then it is # 2's turn. Each person has the choice to either unwrap a new present or to steal another's. When a person's gift is stolen, that person can either choose another wrapped gift to open or can steal from another player. When a gift has been stolen 3 times, (the 4th owner), it is frozen and cannot be stolen again. The person with #1 at the very end is allowed to steal anyone's gift that is not "frozen" and exchange with them.

# Left, Right Story Game

The game begins with people sitting in a circle holding their own gifts. Then someone reads a poem or story with the words "left" and "right." Participants follow these verbal cues, passing gifts to their left or right when they hear the words until the story ends and each person keeps the gift they are holding.

On Christmas Eve while Santa is Right out delivering packages to all the good boys and girls, Mrs. Claus is baking her Right finest goodies for Santa for after he has Left all of his packages to the Right children. Mrs. Claus pulls her best recipes Right out and uses the Right cookie cutters and the Right ingredients to make Santa Claus his Right favorite dessert. When all that Mrs. Claus has Left to do is to decorate the cookies Right, she uses the frosting that she has Left and then uses little candies to decorate the cookies. When all of the cookies are decorated and she has some Left over, she calls the elves in so they can share in the Right goodies too. Mrs. Claus makes Hot Chocolate and there are no Left overs now! When Santa finishes his travels and has no presents Left, because he gave them to all the Right children, and he gets home, Mrs. Claus Right away makes him his fresh Hot Chocolate and he has his favorite cut out cookies, and if you guessed his favorite shape is a reindeer, you are Right! Now all that is Left to do is go Right to bed and start thinking of what is Left to do for next Christmas!!