



Hey there, it's me! Elvin! THE DO-IT-YOURSELF ELF.

I'm here to help make your

**CHRISTMAS** TREE EXPERIENCE Spectacular

with a few helpful hints:









### 1. READ THOSE INSTRUCTIONS!

I know it isn't tons of fun, but it's important for maximizing the awesomeness of your tree!

Spin some holiday tunes that get you in the groove, and light a few of those fancy candles you never use.

### 3. TREAT YOURSELF.

Brew some hot, sweet, yummy stuff to drink, and munch on something Christmasy.

### 4. SHARE THE JOY.

Surround yourself with loved ones — family, friends, neighbors, kids, pets — whoever loves to decorate. (You know what they say... the more, the merrier!)

### 5. SNUGGLE IN

Bask in the glow of your Hallmark tree, all season long.



# Christmas Card Photos STOCK UP ON FUN FAMILY PHOTO IDEAS

Spell it out

Get the kids in plaid pajamas and poses that spell J-O-Y. Or gather the whole family to deliver your season's greetings with signs saying, "Ho Ho," "Naughty and Nice" or "Peace on Earth."

Make it real and be candid.



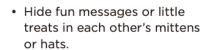
### Get playful

If Winter Wonderland doesn't depict your family, share warm wishes from a recent beach vacation — you, the crew and a holiday sandman. Share your year's happiest moments in a collage with photos of Halloween costumes, sporting events and school plays. Or get your seasonal garb on by decorating everyone in candy-cane colors from head to toe.

Get more ideas - Hallmark.com/christmas/ideas/christmas-card-photo-ideas

MAGICAL WAYS TO CREATE MEMORIES

Lots of families worry about making
the holidays special when they're
dealing with busy lives and tight budgets.
We've gathered a few simple ideas
sure to create merry moments today...
and favorite holiday memories tomorrow.



- As you trim the tree, recall the history of each special ornament.
- Invite school-age children to read greeting cards or gift tags.
- Ask teens or tweens to recall their earliest holiday memories.
- Take a walk together after dark to see the neighbors' decorations.
- Work on a holiday-themed puzzle together.
- Involve the whole family in a charity, or organize a nursing home visit to bring others good cheer.

### Get more ideas

Hallmark.com/christmas/ideas/christmas-activities-for-kids





# CHRISTMAS CARD REMIX.

At this point in the holiday season, you've probably noticed a whole forest of Christmas cards growing on your mantel. Some of them contain words—or even just handwriting—that you want to remember. Some are way too pretty to throw away. And some just make you smile because someone took the time to wish peace and love to you and yours. So how do you hang onto your cards without feeling like one of those hoarders they make TV shows about?

Fortunately there are ways—and crafty ways at that—to give those greeting cards a second life next Christmas.

### Holiday wreath

Use your holiday cards to create a welcoming wreath for next year.

Crafter level: Skilled Time needed: 3 hours





### Pritial gift tags

Turn your holiday cards into one-of-a-kind gift tags for your friends and family.

Crafter level: Beginner Time needed: 15 minutes



### Holiday ornaments

Kids will love to help craft these easy ornaments.

Crafter level: Kids

Time needed: 30 minutes



## HOLIDAY FUN.

Stress-free Christmas cookie exchange

### HOST A SUCCESSFUL SWAP WITH THESE EASY IDEAS:

Host your party early before the holiday rush. It will be less stressful for you, and it will give you and your guests plenty of treats for the upcoming office party, school function or unexpected company.

Give your Christmas cookie swap a theme. Ask your guests to bring only chocolate cookies, butter cookies, bar cookies or any other category of cookies you choose.

Label your guests' creations.
Before you begin sampling the assortment of cookies, have each guest label her offering so everyone knows who brought what. You can use plain labels or seasonal gift tags.

Have your guests share the stories behind their recipes. Is

it an old family Christmas tradition? Do they make it only during the holidays? Exchanging recipes along with their history is bound to be a great conversation starter.

Take and bake. Plastic presentation folders are an easy way for your guests to keep their exchanged recipes organized. Just slip them into the folder and slide on the binding, then everyone will have a booklet to take home.

Present awards for Most Decadent, Most Likely to be Kept for Oneself, Nuttiest or Chocolatiest!

Finally, don't forget the most important and fun part, sharing and eating!

Learn how to make these - Hallmark.com/christmas/ideas/christmas-card-crafts

For more ideas and cookie recipes - Hallmark.com/christmas/ideas



TURN ON THE HOLIDAY DELIGHT

Christmas Day Treasure Hunt!

Ereate Elves for More Fun on Ehristmas Morning

### HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO START YOUR OWN TREASURE HUNT — AND A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION:

- First, pick a prize the whole family will enjoy sharing.
- Next, draw a map using age-appropriate clues that lead to the treasure.
- For younger kids, consider leaving intriguing parts of the treasure as encouragement to keep going. Be sure to keep clues simple for this set. You can always make them more challenging for older kids and adults.

- You can also make clues Christmas-themed. For instance, you could lead everyone to a hidden candy-cane stash with a cute clue like this:
  - We're red and white and sweet to eat. Find us for a nifty treat!
- Keep clue collecting vigorous to make it fun for kids and encourage grown-ups to get silly. Try these fun ideas:
  - Hop to the kitchen table and peek under!
  - Take giant steps to the window and look for snowflakes!
  - Don't forget to kiss Mom on your way to the family room!
- Have the family work as a team or split into sides for some friendly competition—maybe something like the "Stocking Stuffers" vs. the "Turkey Gobblers."

For more fun ideas -> Hallmark.com/christmas/ideas