



# winter weather fun

Activities for the Whole Family

It's time to unpack the mittens, stocking hats, and cold-weather toys. Whether you live in a winter wonderland or are planning a vacation to a place with plenty of snow, there's a whole lot more to do this season than most think. Spice up your wintertime family-fun activities with these outdoor ideas.

### **Make a Snowman or Snow Angel.**

Regardless of age, making something with your hands is always fun. Depending on the number of snow designers and architects in your family, you may want to try a standard three-snowball snowman or get creative with a snow creature. Before you start, gear up with boots, long pants, jackets, hats, gloves, and grab a few accessories for the sculpture like a hat and objects for the eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. When there is a fresh layer of snow, lean into the plush powder; snow angels are crowd-pleasers and easy, too.

### **Visit a Festival or Market.**

Many locations across the US and Canada host family-fun winter festivals and markets. Durango, Colorado is great winter-wonderland destination. Visitors can take a ride on the Polar Express Train and go shopping at an old-fashioned holiday bazaar for gift getting. Another stateside favorite is St. Paul, Minnesota for its Glow Holiday festival. With over a million lights, an ice palace, and holiday favorite sweet-and-savory treats, Glow is fun for youngsters and those young at heart. Toronto hosts its Polar Winter Festival; meanwhile, Montreal's Fire on Ice features impressive nightly firework displays along with musical performances.

### **Sled, Tube, or Toboggan.**

No winter is complete without a ride down a snow-covered hill. Whether you choose a plastic or wooden sled, toboggan, or an inflatable inner tube, there is no better feeling for thrill seekers than racing down a hill with people you love. Although it is best to bundle up, most break a sweat. To reap the benefits of the ride, you must pull or carry the sled up the hill. For those with a need for speed without a workout, a snowmobile ride may be the best option. Most rental snowmobiles can accommodate two people—one driver and one passenger. In fact, many bike trails convert into snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trails in the winter months.

### **Go Ice Skating or for a Scavenger Hunt.**

Whether you live near an area or are visiting one with a frozen lake, outdoor ice rink like Rockefeller Center in New York, or an indoor rink, ice skating is a fabulous way to spend time with the family. Plus, most ice-skating rinks rent skates. Go prepared with hat, gloves, and an extra pair of socks. For those competitive, problem solvers in the family, try a winter-themed scavenger hunt. Create a list of a dozen winter items that each family member must locate: think snowman, shovel, boots, icicles, sled, hat, animal tracks, holiday decor, and more. The first person to complete the entire list accurately is the winner. You can award prizes or decide that bragging rights are enough.

### **Prepare Hot Drinks and Cookies.**

Nothing warms you up better after a long winter's day than a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider. Retreat indoors for a tasty beverage complemented by cookies right out of the oven. Gingersnap, sugar, and traditional chocolate-chip cookies are enough motivation to get you back outdoors tomorrow.



### **Warm Up Indoors.**

Not all winter fun needs to be out in the chilly elements. There will be times that you or the kiddos in your life want to stay inside. We've got you covered! Let these indoor-activity ideas be great bonding time with your loved ones.

For those who love rolling up their sleeves, a simple, hands-on craft is constructing a birdfeeder. All you need is a large pine cone or corncob, peanut butter, birdseed, and a sturdy piece of yarn or cord. Cover the pine cone or corncob with peanut butter and roll it in the seed. Tie the finished feeder to a tree you can watch from a window. (It is better than Nat Geo!)

Prefer pure entertainment? Opt to play a board game or two. Some fan favorites are Kids Against Maturity and Pass the Pigs, both travel size. For film buffs, it's lights, camera, action: movie nights turn an everyday activity into something memorable. Put on your PJs and grab your blankets, cocoa, and a bowl of popcorn to share.

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