



*Christmas  
Advent Calendar  
Ideas*



## *Activity-Based Advent Calendar Ideas*

Fill your Advent calendar with fun holiday-themed activities the whole family can enjoy. These ideas focus on spending time together and creating lasting memories.

- **Decorate the Christmas Tree.**

Kick off the holiday season by gathering around to decorate the Christmas tree as a family.

- **Watch a Christmas Movie.**

Have a cozy movie night with hot cocoa and popcorn. Pick a holiday classic like Home Alone or Elf.

- **Bake Christmas Cookies.**

Get into the kitchen and bake a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies. Don't forget the icing and sprinkles for decorating!

- **Write Letters to Santa.**

Set aside time for the kids to write letters to Santa, sharing their wish lists and holiday hopes.

- **Go See Christmas Lights.**

Take a drive or walk through your neighborhood to admire festive light displays.

- **Make a Holiday Craft.**

Create homemade ornaments, wreaths, or Christmas cards. It's a great way to personalize your holiday decor.

- **Read a Christmas Story.**

End the evening with a festive bedtime story. Choose classics like The Night Before Christmas or How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

**Tip:** Print out or write down each activity and tuck it into the day's slot in your Advent calendar.





## *Treat-Based Advent Calendar Ideas*

Nothing says Christmas like delicious treats! Here are some fun ideas for small treats to fill your Advent calendar with something sweet each day.

- **Chocolate Santa.**

Start the countdown with a mini chocolate Santa or snowman.

- **Candy Cane.**

Slip a classic peppermint candy cane into today's slot.

- **Hot Cocoa Packet.**

Include a single-serve hot cocoa packet for a warm, cozy treat.

- **Gingerbread Cookie.**

A small gingerbread cookie or homemade treat adds a festive touch.

- **Holiday-Themed Candy.**

Use fun, seasonal candies like Christmas-colored M&M's or peppermint bark.

- **Festive Marshmallows.**

Holiday-shaped marshmallows make for a fun treat and can be added to hot chocolate.

- **Mini Christmas Ornament.**

For a change from sweets, include a small ornament to hang on the tree.

Tip: Use small bags or decorative boxes to hold treats and attach them to the calendar for a personalized touch.





## Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar

Spread the holiday cheer with a kindness-themed Advent calendar. Each day, challenge your family to complete an act of kindness that brightens someone's day.

- **Donate Toys.**

Start the month by gathering toys or clothes to donate to a local charity.

- **Write a Kind Note.**

Encourage family members to write a kind note to a friend, teacher, or neighbor.

- **Make Homemade Treats for Neighbors.**

Bake some festive treats and deliver them to your neighbors with a holiday greeting.

- **Donate to a Food Bank.**

Set aside non-perishable food items to donate to a local food bank.

- **Pay It Forward.**

Encourage family members to perform a random act of kindness, like paying for someone's coffee or leaving a kind note on a car.

- **Volunteer Time.**

Spend a day volunteering at a local charity or shelter to give back to the community.

- **Call a Loved One.**

Take time to call or video chat with a family member or friend you haven't spoken to in a while.

**Tip:** Write the act of kindness for each day on small cards and place them in the calendar, encouraging family discussions about the importance of giving.





# *Experience-Based Advent Calendar*

For families who love making memories, an experience-based Advent calendar is perfect for filling the month with fun outings and activities.

- **Go Ice Skating.**

Bundle up and hit the ice for a fun skating outing with the family.

- **Attend a Christmas Market.**

Visit a local Christmas market to browse holiday crafts, food, and gifts.

- **Visit Santa.**

Schedule a visit to Santa's Grotto or a nearby holiday event where the kids can meet Santa Claus.

- **Take a Family Holiday Photo.**

Dress up in festive outfits or Christmas pajamas and take a family photo to mark the season.

- **Have a Snowball Fight.**

If it's snowy outside, have a playful snowball fight. If not, make indoor "snowballs" out of soft fabric for some fun.

- **Build a Gingerbread House.**

Spend the afternoon building and decorating a gingerbread house together.

- **Attend a Christmas Concert or Play.**

Check out local holiday performances, whether it's a Christmas choir, ballet, or community play.

**Tip:** Use a calendar template and write down each experience, then reveal them daily as you get closer to Christmas.





# *Diy Gifts or Crafts Advent Calendar*

Encourage creativity with a DIY-themed Advent calendar that includes handmade crafts or small, thoughtful gifts each day.

- **Make Your Own Ornament.**

Provide the materials for a DIY ornament and let each family member decorate their own.

- **Create a Personalized Mug.**

Use paint or markers to personalize plain mugs with festive designs or family members' names.

- **DIY Christmas Candles.**

Make candles together with festive scents like cinnamon, peppermint, or pine.

- **Handwrite a Family Recipe Book.**

Collect favorite family recipes and create a holiday recipe book to pass down through generations.

- **Create a Photo Garland.**

Print out family photos from past holidays and string them together to create a memory garland.

- **Make Homemade Bath Bombs.**

Create holiday-scented bath bombs to enjoy during the season or give as gifts.

- **Knit or Crochet a Small Scarf.**


Teach the kids how to knit or crochet, and create small scarves or mittens as simple, cozy gifts.

Tip: Include all the materials needed for each DIY craft in small bags or boxes and attach them to the calendar.





# Create Your Own Advent Calendar

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# Create Your Menu

Planning your holiday menu is the first step toward organizing a delicious and stress-free Christmas meal. Start with the main courses and build your menu around them.

Main Course:

Appetizers & Starters:

Side Dishes: \_\_\_\_\_

Desserts:

Drinks & Beverages: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quick Tip:** Incorporate family favorites alongside traditional Christmas dishes for a mix of familiarity and festive charm.

## Menu Ideas:

### Main Courses:

- Roast Turkey with Herb Butter
- Glazed Ham with Honey and Mustard
- Beef Wellington
- Baked Salmon with Dill and Lemon
- Roast Duck with Orange Sauce
- Stuffed Pork Loin with Apples and Cranberries
- Prime Rib with Garlic and Rosemary
- Roast Lamb with Mint Sauce
- Chicken Roulade with Spinach and Cheese
- Vegetarian Nut Roast with Mushroom Gravy

### Appetizers & Starters:

- Shrimp Cocktail with Spicy Sauce
- Bacon-Wrapped Dates Stuffed with Goat Cheese
- Mini Crab Cakes with Lemon Aioli
- Spinach and Artichoke Dip with Pita Chips
- Prosciutto-Wrapped Asparagus
- Baked Brie with Cranberry Chutney
- Deviled Eggs with Smoked Paprika
- Stuffed Mushrooms with Sausage and Parmesan
- Mini Caprese Skewers (Tomato, Mozzarella, Basil)
- Charcuterie Board with Cured Meats, Cheeses, and Fruit

### Side Dishes

- Creamy Mashed Potatoes with Garlic and Butter
- Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Balsamic Glaze
- Sweet Potato Casserole with Marshmallows
- Classic Bread Stuffing with Herbs
- Green Bean Almondine (Green Beans with Almonds)
- Scalloped Potatoes with Cheese
- Roasted Root Vegetables with Thyme
- Cranberry Sauce with Orange Zest
- Buttery Dinner Rolls
- Parmesan and Herb Roasted Carrots

### Desserts

- Classic Yule Log (Bûche de Noël)
- Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
- Gingerbread Cookies with Royal Icing
- Red Velvet Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting
- Apple Pie with Cinnamon and Nutmeg
- Chocolate Peppermint Bark
- Pecan Pie with Bourbon Whipped Cream
- Pumpkin Cheesecake
- Tiramisu with Espresso and Mascarpone
- Sticky Toffee Pudding