



Holiday Gift Guide

A Season For Saving

Budget-friendly holiday
shopping tips

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Unique places for holiday shopping



Although the holiday season is a relatively brief period, it still can consume months of time in regard to preparation, shopping and hosting. According to a SWNS Digital survey of 2,000 adults in the United States, the average American spends six weeks preparing for the holiday season. Five weeks are devoted to planning presents, meals and other essentials, while an entire week is just for decorating.

Shopping for presents can consume a lot of time, especially for those who aren't quite sure what to get. Thinking outside of the typical retail box may help with inspiration, and shoppers may encounter smaller crowds and find better deals. Here are some unique places to shop to grab great holiday gifts.

• **Pharmacies:** While you're picking up your prescription or medicine cabinet essentials, take a spin around the store to see what else might be available. Typically, pharmacies have entire aisles dedicated to seasonal merchandise, so you might be able to find holiday decorations, gift wrap, candles, pampering items, and even food-related items and gift baskets.

• **Farmer's market:** Farmer's markets pop up in towns on set days of the week. Although plenty of farm-related produce and plants are available, these markets also attract many other small businesses. You can find craftsmen, jewelry makers, niche food sellers, and so much more.

• **School (or church) bazaar:** In an effort to raise funds for the PTA or other organizations, schools and churches often host holiday fairs and bazaars

right before the holidays. Area businesses rent table space and set up booths with an array of different products for sale. This is a great spot to grab interesting finds all under one roof. Plus, you're supporting the local community in the process.

• **Home improvement retailer:** Plenty of people will appreciate practical gifts that they can use in and around the home. A visit to a hardware store or home improvement retailer offers up aisles of essentials for the do-it-yourselfer. While new shelving for the garage or a set of flashlights may not be the most glamorous gifts, these items can come in handy.

• **Craft store:** Cater to recipients' favorite hobbies by ensuring they'll be flush with plenty of supplies. Craft stores have a bevy of items for every interest imaginable. They're also surprisingly good places to grab deals on picture frames, housewares, food-making supplies, and decorative items.

• **Specialty food store:** Head to small specialty food stores to load up on unique items larger supermarkets might not carry. Ethnic markets may have flavorful and interesting ingredients to group together in a food basket that makes an ideal gift for transplants missing the flavors of home.

Before a person logs on to the internet for online shopping or heads to the nearest strip mall, he or she can explore various unique places to shop for holiday gifts.

Budget-friendly holiday shopping tips

The National Retail Federation says American consumers spend an average of **\$997.73** on gifts and other holiday items each Christmas.



Holiday shopping and entertaining involve a whirlwind of activity to round out the end of the year. The holiday season also tends to be an expensive time of year. According to Capital One Shopping, the average spending for holiday travel, gifts and entertainment expenses is \$1,638. The National Retail Federation says American consumers spend an average of \$997.73 on gifts and other holiday items each Christmas.

For some people, adding an additional \$1,000 to their November or December budgets can be challenging, and many individuals seek budget-friendly solutions for their holiday celebrations. The following guidelines can help corral spending this year.

Set a budget

It's impossible to keep a budget if one is never established in the first place. Determine how much you can comfortably spend on gifts, travel and entertaining, as well as any other holiday expenses. Once the number is calculated, divvy up spending accordingly.

Plan your list

Make a list of everyone you need to purchase gifts for, along with gift ideas and estimated costs. Set a dollar amount for each individual, particularly if you will not be spending the same amount on each person. Having numbers in black and white, and comparing them to what you have allocated for gifts, will enable you to see whether you are overspending or on budget.

Shop early

Begin holiday shopping as early as possible, even months before the

holidays arrive. Such an approach enables you to take advantage of sales as they come up. Also, you will not fall victim to impulse buys or last-minute purchases because you are under a time crunch.

Track spending

Utilize whatever method works for you to keep apprised of spending. It may be jotting down numbers on a piece of paper or using a budgeting app on a smartphone. Having a clear idea of what you have spent and any dollars remaining will help you keep your overall spending in line with your budgeted amount.

Get coupons

Signing up for stores' loyalty programs can enable you to receive members-only coupons or digital codes to your phone or email. Compare the discounted final price with other stores' offers to make sure that you are getting the best deals. Browser extensions also can search automatically for coupons and apply them to the checkout when online shopping.

Use credit cards wisely

Credit cards come with various perks, many of which are points or cash back accumulated with each purchase. Utilize a card that works best for your needs, whether it's to get airline miles or score extra spending money for a particular retailer. Only charge what you can pay in full when the bill arrives; otherwise, the benefits may be negated by high interest rates.

Holiday spending can derail financial plans for those who do not establish a firm budget and commit to spending wisely towards the end of the year.

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12 gifts for crafty people



Craft enthusiasts can be easy people to shop for come the holiday season. Shoppers can simply fuel their loved one's passion for crafts by keeping their supplies fully stocked or introduce them to new crafting techniques.

There are roughly 85 million active creatives and 30 million sewists in the United States and Canada, according to Customcy, a custom product manufacturer. Millennials account for 41 percent of consumers in the craft market, according to the Center for Generational Kinetics. These 12 gift ideas will be perfect for creatives who want to enjoy their passion for crafting to the fullest.

1. Organizers: Craft supply organizers can keep people's gear neat and tidy in bins or compartmentalized boxes.

2. Gift cards: A spending spree at a nearby craft retailer can help crafters get everything they need.

3. Rotary cutters: While quality scissors are a necessity, a rotary cutter can make fast work of slicing through materials.

4. Cutting mat: A self-healing cutting mat is ideal for model-making, sewing and paper crafts.

5. Cutting machine: A cutting machine, like those offered from Cricut® or Silhouette®, can help people complete a vast number of projects. These machines can cut vinyl, paper, labels, and even fabrics and foam for certain models.

6. Pattern books: Those who enjoy needlework, crocheting or knitting can benefit from books that offer patterns or digital sewing ideas.

7. Yarn and thread: High quality yarns and threads can elevate completed projects.

8. Paper or canvases: Fine artists and painters will need places to display their creative visions. A stock of mixed media paper and canvases means art can be made whenever inspiration strikes.

9. Resin supplies: Resin products have become more popular and crafters who enjoy such projects will benefit from epoxy resin and molds or acrylic pouring kits.

10. Clay: Those who enjoy making clay-based creations can always use more clay in a variety of colors and new clay sculpting tools.

11. Floral supplies: Whether live flowers or artificial, foam, floral tape, stem snips, and ribbons can help people create beautiful designs.

12. Home improvement: Many crafters can benefit from having a dedicated space to engage in their projects. A gift of minor home renovations to create a crafting room or area in an existing spot can make a crafter very happy.

Crafting is a popular hobby with scores of enthusiasts. Catering to their hobbies with special gifts will keep crafters busy and happy throughout the year.

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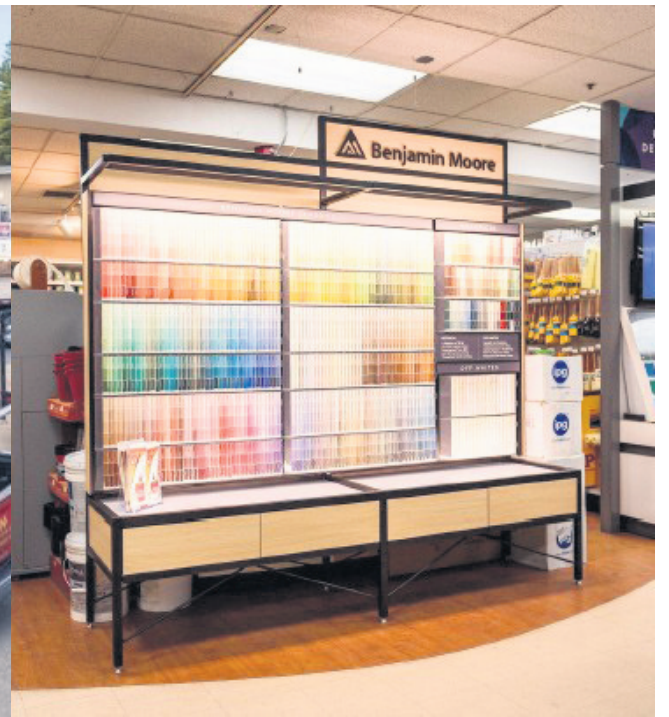
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Top video games for holiday gifting this year

Gaming remains a wildly popular pastime. According to TechJury, more than 3.3 billion people worldwide played video games in 2025, and gaming is a mainstream hobby across all generations. The Entertainment Software Association's 2025 Facts About the U.S. Video Game Industry report indicates the average player is 26-years-old and female and male gamers are nearly evenly split (47 percent versus 52 percent). Baby Boomers and even older generations also play video games each week and benefit from the mental stimulation and relaxation the hobby offers.

Given the popularity of gaming, gifting video games for the holidays can be a smart tactic. The following are some 2025 releases that can be wrapped up as gifts this year.



• **Donkey Kong Returns HD:** Players will blast out of barrels, ride mine carts, stomp enemies, and more in this popular game newly imagined for the Nintendo Switch. Players join Donkey Kong and Diddy Kong on their wild adventures to retrieve their stolen banana horde.

• **Split Fiction:** In this game, a player and partner become Mio and Zoe, two writers who are trapped in a simulation of their own imaginations after a high-tech attempt to steal their creative ideas goes awry. This unlikely duo will need to work together in order to escape with their memories intact from a world filled with dragons, trolls, cyber ninjas, and robo-parking attendants. The game is available for PlayStation 5.

• **Star Wars Episode 1: Jedi Power Battles:** Video games often tap into nostalgia, which is perhaps why gamers were excited to find out that this popular *Star Wars* game was being remastered for modern consoles. This enables players to enjoy the original experience with only minor updates that include a simpler control scheme.

• **Citizen Sleeper 2: Starward Vector:** This role-playing game is a sequel to the popular game from 2022. Players control an escaped android with a malfunctioning body, a price on its head and no memory of the past. The goal is to get a ship, find a crew and take on contracts.

• **Doom: The Dark Ages:** This game is a prequel to the popular *Doom* experience, including *Doom* and *Doom Eternal*. It tells an epic story, and players inhabit the boots of the *Doom* slayer in this medieval and sinister war game.

• **Elden Ring: Nightreign:** This game is a standalone adventure within the *Elden Ring* universe. It's crafted to offer players a new gaming experience by reimagining the core attributes of play. Players join forces with others to battle the creeping night and become heroes.

Video games are popular gift ideas, and 2025 doesn't disappoint with its newest crop of exciting releases perfect for gamers of all ages.

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Thinking outside-the-box for kids' gifts

Children may look forward to the holiday season more than most people. The holiday season is an opportunity for kids to tear open wrapping paper and see the amazing gifts they've received this year.

Although toys and games are typical gifts for children, there are many other items that go beyond these staples to make for unique and creative gifts that can spark imagination or boost physical activity. Shoppers can consider these outside-the-box gift ideas when shopping for youngsters this holiday season.

- **3D pen or printer:** Kids can design and build amazing objects that encourage them to employ their creative side.
- **Soap-making kit:** These kits spur creative endeavors and ultimately produce useful finished results. Soap or perfume kits are great for hands-on sensory learning. Such gifts also teach some
- components of science and math by requiring users to follow the recipe.
- **Robot-building kits:** Take building kits one step further with items that can move. Robot kits combine play with engineering basics.
- **Interactive books:** Children can solve puzzles or make choices to move the story along. These



types of books may even appeal to the most hesitant readers.

- **Bug collection kits:** Budding entomologists can observe insects close up, and then release them back into the wild.
- **Greenhouse, terrarium or bonsai tree kit:** Put together the materials needed for kids to grow something special. They can nurture the plant along the way.
- **Dress up trunk:** Fill a box or a trunk with various dress-up costumes and accessories and

let children's imaginations run wild. This will spur hours of imaginative play and crazy combinations of clothing.

- **Geocaching app:** Let kids find objects hidden all over their neighborhoods in real-world outdoor treasure hunts. Geocaching utilizes GPS coordinates to find hidden containers, called geocaches, placed there by other players.
- **Various craft supplies:** Let kids create any and all of their fun ideas by compiling a kit full of various craft supplies.



From beads to wooden letters to paints to paper, there are plenty of items to be made.

- **Hiking attire:** Get kids out into nature by supplying the gear needed to take to the trails.
- **Adopt a star or planet:** Children can adopt and name a star or planet and get a certificate honoring the event.
- **Time capsule:** Let children store favorite items tucked away for safe keeping, where they'll remain until unveiled in the future.

Parents and other holiday shoppers can think creatively when it comes time to choose gifts for children.

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Take a bite of these holiday gifts for foodies

Food-related gifts are popular come the holiday season. According to Packaged Facts' November-December 2023 report on consumer and corporate food gifting in the United States, 50 percent of consumers had purchased food gifts for others over the 12-month report period, and 65 percent had purchased food gifts for themselves. The holidays of Chanukah and Christmas are particularly popular for giving food gifts, with nearly half of all food gifts purchased during these holiday seasons.

For a dedicated foodie in one's life, a gift that tempts the palate can be rewarding. There are delectable gifts of all flavors for the culinary-minded. Explore these possibilities when building holiday shopping lists.

Aspiring cook

Preparing meals at home allows cooks to customize flavors to meet their personal needs. Experimenting with recipes and perfecting techniques is high on the list for budding chefs. Outfitting their kitchens with durable cooking gear, like a cast-iron skillet, Dutch oven, immersion blender, or kitchen scale can help home cooks immensely. A variety of cookbooks that feature different cuisines can provide endless inspiration.

Tempting sweets

Cooks and bakers typically fall into two distinctive camps. Baking is an art that marries creativity with science. If a foodie delights in all

things sweet, focus on gifts that cater to their sugar-laden passions. Baking essentials like a stand mixer, silicone baking mats, cookie cutters, professional-grade pans, and gourmet ingredients are sure to please. Don't underestimate the appeal of beautifully packaged candies, chocolates, cookie bars, or even specialty coffees and liqueurs when gifting food.

Global palate

Some foodies love nothing more than sampling cuisines from all around the world. While you might not be able to offer a ticket to every far-flung region, you certainly can gift flavors from these countries with a well curated gift. Think international snack boxes, a collection of sauces from different areas, unique condiments, or food baskets brimming with items from a particular country or region.

High-class dining

Some food lovers seemingly have everything. In such cases, a bottle of wine or another favorite liquor as well as a gift certificate to a local four-star restaurant might be the icing on the cake for gifting.

Ultimately the best gifts for foodies are those that recognize their passion for palate-tempting treats.



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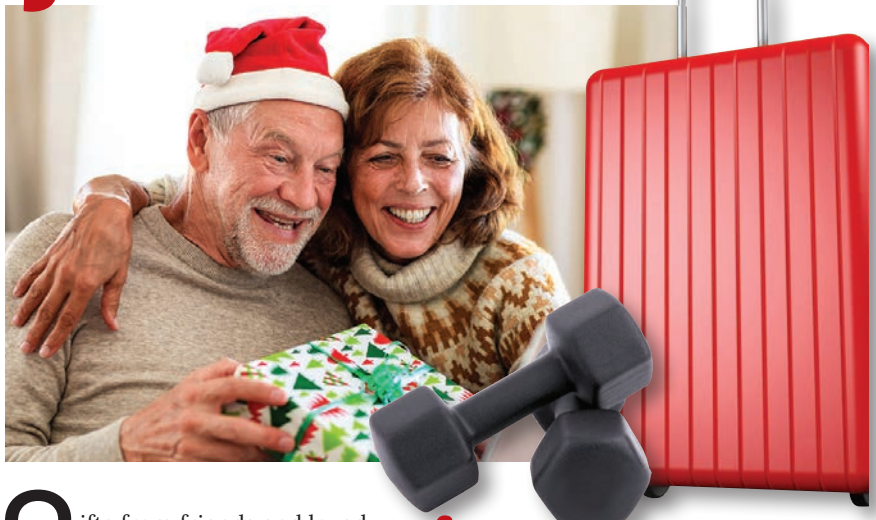
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Thoughtful gifts for seniors



Gifts from friends and loved ones can make people feel cherished and valued. When these people are the older adults in one's life, such as parents or grandparents, gifts take on additional meaning because they can warm the hearts of very special people.

Finding unique gifts for seniors can be challenging because these individuals have been receiving gifts for many years, and many may already have everything they need. Inspiration is everything when shopping for the ideal gifts for the older adults in one's life, and the following are some categories that can serve as a springboard for what to get seniors this holiday season.

Comfort and mobility

Although people like to say, "age is just a number," getting older may come with a few aches and pains and even some limitations. Gifts like seat cushions that correct posture or easy on/off sock helpers can be helpful. Cloud foam slippers or even a grab bar that attaches into the hood of the car door can be great gifts.

Fitness and fun

Gifts that cater to interests, well-being and more can be ideal. Active seniors may appreciate a fitness tracker or exercise equipment (yoga mat, light dumbbells, resistance bands) to facilitate fitness goals. Storage solutions for hobbies and craft items also can be fitting. See-through containers to store paints

or beads or an organizer for fishing tackle can make seniors' hobbies even more enjoyable. A roll-up puzzle mat is great for puzzle enthusiasts to protect their work until completion.

Family gifts

Seniors also may appreciate gifts that touch the heart. A custom recipe cutting board that features a treasured family recipe may become a cherished item. A customized photo calendar that features family members' birthdays and other key events also is thoughtful. A photo jewelry locket makes a nice gift for a special senior woman.

Travel gifts

Seniors typically have more time to devote to travel than younger adults, and gifts that cater to their wanderlust are a perfect fit. Digital GPS-based devices that connect to keys or luggage can help prevent lost items while traveling. Bright luggage that won't get mixed up at the baggage carousel or ergonomic neck pillows that facilitate napping on a flight also can be appreciated. Those who know destinations the seniors in their lives may want to visit can purchase plane or cruise tickets as a generous gift for someone special.

Various categories can provide ample inspiration when shopping for gifts for seniors this holiday season.

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Great gifts for new homeowners



Homeownership is a goal that many people aspire to. However, a complicated housing market in the United States, marked by high prices and high interest rates, has led the homeownership rate to dip to 65.1 percent in the first quarter of 2025. This decline marked a five-year low, and younger homeowners, particularly those under age 35, have found buying a home particularly challenging, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve Economic Data.

Those who have been successful with their homeownership endeavors can benefit from all the help they can get to offset rising costs. The excitement of a new space often comes with a long list of home needs, making housewarming gifts practical and appealing this holiday season. The following are a selection of items that can benefit any new homeowner.

Practical essentials

New homeowners will need to outfit their homes with basic household items. As repairs and remodeling might be the first tasks to tackle, a high-quality tool kit and some key power tools will be invaluable. Additional practical gifts include a fire extinguisher, smart home devices, a sturdy step stool, and painting equipment.

Kitchen gadgets

Plenty of action takes place in the kitchen, and this room often is referred to as the

heart of a home. Upgrading the space with an arsenal of culinary tools is often slow-going for new homeowners. That's when gifts of a durable coffee maker, a set of mixing bowls, a cutlery set, cast-iron cookware, or stylish serving platters can help get homeowners established.

Cozy corners

A new home may seem stark at the outset. Gifts of creature comforts like throw blankets, lush bedding, luxurious soaps, scented candles, accent lighting, low-maintenance houseplants, or a Bluetooth smart speaker can create a welcoming retreat.

Helping hands

New homeowners likely will appreciate a little help by way of services that can take some of the work off of their shoulders. A gift of lawn care or cleaning services will get the property and home looking its best. For the security-minded, gifting security cameras or access to a remote security monitoring service will be thoughtful. Homeowners who have pools or spas may appreciate a maintenance service that helps with cleaning and water balancing.

New homeowners have much on their plates, so well-intentioned holiday gifts can fill in the gaps as they begin life in their new abodes.



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Charitable giving increases significantly in the months surrounding the holidays. Approximately one-third of annual giving happens in December, and 10 percent of all giving occurs in the last three days of the year, according to Charities Aid Foundation America. The surge in donations typically occurs with people's desire to spread holiday cheer, enjoy tax advantages and help people in the community, says Nonprofit Source.

Some people are compelled to donate in the name of another person. Here are some ideas for charitable holiday gifts that benefit many.

Donate in someone's name

To honor a loved one who may be living or deceased, or who fought an illness and won, you can donate to a nonprofit in the name of that loved one. Many charities offer printable or physical cards to let the recipient know a donation has been made in his or her name.

Giving back through gifts

Certain products purchased feature proceeds that go toward a charitable cause.

For example, every purchase of TOMS® shoes helps fund mental health access and community development, while the body care products from Thistle Farms are made by women survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Other products may help feed the hungry or support cancer patients.

Supporting animals

A symbolic animal adoption can support conservation efforts around the world. Making a donation to the World Wildlife Fund in someone's name, for example, enables you to get a plushie, certificate and information on the animal the contribution will be helping.

Fair trade gifts

Making a purchase of fair trade items means you're often buying handmade and ethically sourced goods. These gifts support artisans in developing countries and help fund community projects. Gift recipients can feel pride in ownership of an item that was designed and purchased with the greater good in mind.

Charity gift cards

Charitable gift cards, like those



available from TisBest Charity and CharityChoice, let the gift recipient choose which nonprofit will receive the funds.

Support special businesses

Offer gift cards or take people to dine or shop at businesses

that support those with special needs. For example, No Limits Cafe in New Jersey is a full-service restaurant that trains and employs adults with intellectual disabilities. Dining there will help to continue to support these important efforts to give every employee a sense

of pride and purpose.

Charitable gifts make a recipient feel special and can make many additional people feel good as well.

Tips for gifting coworkers

The holiday season finds people making shopping lists that include gifts for all of the special people in their lives. Such lists also feature the people with whom individuals may spend the majority of their time each day: coworkers.

Gifting coworkers can strengthen professional relationships, build camaraderie and show appreciation while on the job. A well-chosen gift can leave a lasting impression, whether it's given for a birthday, promotion or the holiday season. According to a 2019 survey from Office Depot, 70 percent of

employees said their workplace had a holiday gift-giving tradition like Secret Santa or White Elephant. It is important to balance thoughtfulness with professional decorum when selecting gifts. These guidelines can help anyone navigate workplace giving.

• Consider company culture.

One of the first aspects of gift giving among coworkers is understanding the culture of the company. In some businesses, gift exchanges are commonplace and encouraged during team celebrations or the holiday season. In others, they may be

rare or even frowned upon. It is always a good idea to check with human resources before choosing a gift, particularly for those who are new to the company.

• **Avoid personal gifts.** When selecting gifts, consider thoughtful items that are not too personal. These can include desk organizers, coffee mugs, plants, notebooks, photo frames, or even gift cards to nearby restaurants.

• **Be mindful of food and beverages.** When choosing to give a gift of food, be aware of

any dietary restrictions and allergies the gift recipients may have. Also, while a gift of wine or another bottle of alcohol may seem fitting, one never knows if a person is abstaining from drinking, so it's best to avoid such gifts in the workplace.

• **Consider personalized gifts for close colleagues.** Giving personalized gifts to close coworkers can be a great way to show appreciation when one knows the recipient well enough. For example, if he or she can't survive without coffee each morning, then a gift of an engraved insulated coffee tumbler can be perfect. If the coworker mentions being part of a book club, a specialized bookmark or gift card to a bookstore will be fitting.

• **Be careful with humor.** When gifting a funny present, avoid anything that can be misinterpreted or considered

offensive. It's best to avoid any political humor. For those unsure about whether a gift might be taken the wrong way, skip that gift and choose another option.

• **Limit the cost.** Some coworkers may be friends, but it is best to keep all gifts inexpensive and of the same value if the plan is to gift everyone in the department. According to the Office Depot survey, 27 percent of respondents felt meeting a spending limit is very important. The general range of gift prices at the workplace is between \$20 and \$30.

One of the best ideas for company gifting is to see who might want to participate in a gift exchange, and then everyone brings a grab bag gift. Then there isn't pressure on any one person, and gifts are distributed randomly.

Gifting between coworkers can be thoughtful and foster stronger relationships if done correctly.



Many people find that the great outdoors is the perfect place to spend their days. Activities run the gamut from hunting and fishing to hiking and camping. Plenty of other interests, like birdwatching or mountain biking, also maximize time spent in the outdoors.

According to the “Outdoor Participation Trends Report” from the Outdoor Industry Association, gateway activities like hiking, camping and fishing each gained more than two million new participants over the last year. There’s also been a surge in participation in such activities among seniors and youth, contributing to a more multigenerational outdoors experience. There’s also been participation growth among Black and Hispanic Americans, indicating long-term momentum toward equity and inclusion.

When it comes to holiday giving, tapping into the interests of outdoor enthusiasts is a great way to offer gifts that will be used and appreciated. Here are some ideas when making holiday shopping lists.

• **First aid kit:** No matter the activity, having an up-to-date and well-stocked first aid kit can be a lifesaver when spending time in the outdoors. The kit should include items like splints and bandage wraps for immobilizing ankles or limbs in the event of sprains.

• **Quality wool socks:** Nothing can derail an outdoor adventure faster than wet, cold or blistered feet. Wool socks are a must because they are moisture-wicking, warm and comfortable.

• **Insulated, waterproof jacket:** A high-quality jacket for outdoor adventures that will be efficient at trapping heat, windproof and water-resistant is a thoughtful gift. Patagonia is a popular brand of outerwear, but retailers like Columbia and REI also merit consideration.

• **Trail shoes or sandals:** Supportive,

comfortable and non-slip footwear is a given when enjoying the great outdoors. Depending on the activity, there are plenty of options from boots to hikers to trail sandals to consider.

• **Waist pack:** Packing light for short jaunts in the wilderness may include stocking a waist pack (also known as a fanny pack) with must-have items. They are lightweight, comfortable and spacious enough for the essentials without getting bogged down by a backpack or another bag.

• **Buff:** A buff is a tube of lightweight, stretchy material that serves innumerable functions in the great outdoors. It can be used to shield the neck from the sun or wind, or to absorb sweat or keep hair out of the face. A buff can be useful on a hiking or backpacking trip, or just about any outdoor activity.

• **Headlamp:** Visibility is essential when enjoying the great outdoors, and many activities happen during dawn and dusk when light may be at a premium. A headlamp keeps things hands-free and sheds light on surroundings or up-close tasks, like setting up fishing hooks or field dressing game.

• **Satellite communicator:** A satellite communicator can keep outdoors enthusiasts safe and at ease when off the grid. Certain regions have spotty cell coverage, and satellite devices will do better at sending out messages or SOS signals should something go awry.

• **Hiking poles:** Telescoping hiking poles are adjustable and lightweight, and offer extra support and balance when on trails.

Outdoor enthusiasts will benefit from gifts tailored to their love of nature, wildlife and adventure.



Music provides the soundtrack for people’s lives. Music evokes strong emotions and can inspire and motivate individuals while also helping them calm down and reflect. Finding the right gift for a music lover this holiday season can be a worthwhile endeavor, as the world of music offers an array of gift possibilities. Whether a gift recipient plays an instrument, loves live performances or enjoys singing, there is a gift out there to hit all the right notes.

The listening experience

People who prioritize the listening experience will enjoy quality audio equipment. High-fidelity headphones or an upgraded Bluetooth speaker can enhance daily listening sessions, allowing individuals to fully immerse themselves in their favorite tracks. Although digital music is the go-to nowadays, plenty of music lovers are vinyl enthusiasts. For them, a new record player with modern features, such as Bluetooth connectivity or record storage, would make an ideal gift. For others, a subscription to a quality audio streaming service will offer uninterrupted music on demand.

Music creator

Many music lovers enjoy creating their art. A gift that supports those endeavors will be cherished. Beginners may appreciate entry-level instruments, like a ukulele or a keyboard. Those already playing and creating might appreciate personalized sheet music, new guitar strings and capo, drumsticks, or upgraded software for recording and mixing sound.

Devoted fan

Music fans enjoy expressing their devotion to favorite bands and other musicians. Therefore, artist merchandise can make fitting gifts. Vintage T-shirts, framed album covers, souvenirs from past shows, and any other band-related memorabilia will keep music fans happy.

Live music

A live show is many music lovers’ ideal experience. Tickets to a concert, solo vocal night, theater show, or orchestra performance will certainly strike the right chords with music lovers.

The best gifts for music lovers are those that resonate with their passion for the songs and sounds of life.

Experiential gifts

for everyone on your list



Experiential gifts place value on memories and emotional connections rather than objects.



Children and families

Families already may be out and about, and parents of young children may appreciate experiences more than additional toys and games that are already filling the house. Annual passes to zoos, museums or aquariums can keep families occupied year-round. Children might like a science or art workshop, while movie night gift cards and tickets to family shows also are viable gift options.

Special partners

Experiences can strengthen relationships and intimacy. Possible gift ideas include spa days, cooking classes for two, a weekend travel getaway, or tickets to a theater performance or concert. The Amex Trendex 2024 survey found that 38 percent of people plan to give an experience to a significant other.

Experiential gifts focus on fun, creating memories and reducing waste. Such gifts also tend to be more economical in the long run. The holidays are often filled with excess, and experiential gifts can put the focus back on joy and spending time together.

Gift exchanges are a hallmark of the holiday season. Individuals spend weeks making lists and shopping for items they believe recipients will appreciate. However, this holiday season shoppers may want to change up their gift-buying strategy to focus less on material offerings and more on experiences.

A recent survey from Get Your Guide found 92 percent of Americans prefer to receive an experience over a physical gift during the holiday season. In addition, Deloitte's 2024 survey of more than 4,000 consumers in the United States found that spending on

experiences during the holidays is expected to rise by 16 percent year-over-year, reaching an average of \$735.

Experiential gifts place value on memories and emotional connections rather than objects. As people increasingly are drawn to these special moments, here's a look at experiential gifts for everyone on a holiday shopping list.

Parents and grandparents

Experiential gifts for older adults are beneficial because they won't add to the clutter or belongings such individuals have already accumulated

throughout the years. Useful ideas include memberships to museums, entry to botanical gardens, culinary tastings, travel vouchers, and subscriptions to wellness classes.

Teens and young adults

Teens are big on experiences over material gifts. According to TD Bank's 2024 survey, Gen Z leads the trend in experience-first gifting, with 68 percent preferring experiences. Examples of good experiential gifts for this demographic include escape room experiences, concert tickets, adventure sports like indoor rock climbing, subscription services to streaming music, or movie passes.

Did You
KNOW?

When making a holiday shopping list and checking it twice, shoppers may want to put more emphasis on experiential gifts over material items. A 2023 survey from GetYourGuide found **51 percent of people prefer some type of travel, 40 percent want to attend a show, 30 percent prefer outdoor activities, and 27 percent want to visit museums.** The data is showing more and more people are choosing to share experiences and create meaningful memories with the people they love rather than offering material gifts.

The desire for experiential gifts is particularly strong among millennials and Gen Z.





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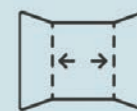
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