**Chamber Executive Board Meeting**

11:30-12:30

**February 2, 2021**

**Board Meeting for Oct. – Nov. – Dec. – Jan. 2021**

* + **Attendees:** Joe Prodinsky Kerry Peterson Adam Otteson Brad Eckhoff Sarah Wischnefski Jude DuHoux
  + **Call to Order**
  + **Oct. – Nov. – Dec. – Jan. 2021Board Meeting Minutes**
    1. Motion to approve by:
    2. Motion seconded by:
  + **Oct. – Nov. – Dec. – Jan. 2021Treasurer’s Report**- (Reading & approval expenses & revenues)
    1. Motion to approve by:
    2. Motioned seconded by:
  + **Membership**
    1. Invoices
    2. Mason Shirmer
    3. Prospects (correct with PO Boxes-won’t send out again unless confirmed)
    4. Past four months, this month I have all my hours (Brad)
  + **Marketing**
    - 5 business partaking of the free newsletter advertising and email service
    - Joint Meeting with Cold Spring and Richmond
    - Tomorrow’s meeting is joint
  + **Meeting**
    1. Dr. Katrina Wherry “Dr. Trina”
    2. Candice Stang is the Prez of Cold Spring Chamber and she is the office Manager of Carstar Precision Collision
    3. Meeting will proceed like????
  + **Good of the Chamber** (Fan mail, donation requests etc.)
* Insurance on file
* Winter Walk
  + **Adjourn**
    1. Motion to adjourn by:
    2. Motion seconded by:

Sartell Family Practice Cody Wendlant (okay and wants to be updated)

Tammy Moore: Perfectly Imperfect Conflict

Differences between Dementia and Normal Forgetfulness-Joan Thralow

From Somalia to Snow

Stearns Electric Renewable Energy (waiting for business dev. Person to be hired.)

Better Sleep or Managing Risk or Leadership Vicki Ikeogu Johnson

Holiday Party or Paul Radeke on Economics of Historic Preservation

Energy Efficiency, Performance Materials, Insulation, Air Barriers for Your House Retrogreen, Chris Froelke, 320-252-8888

Industry trends or insights from chamber member (eye care, technology anything)  
Non-profit/community highlight  
Personal development, (time management, organization, education, dress for success)

Brad I created a 2020 folder for Luncheon Sign-in Sheets-I try to include cash/checks/Paypal/Prepaid

Also- feel free to reach out to scenic specialties-

Peggy or Ben 320-363-7479 or [info@scenicspecialties.com](mailto:info@scenicspecialties.com) to see if they would like to be members

Ray Sjorgran

Thursday, February 11 at 6 pm at Bad Habit

Carriage Rides sponsored by the Chamber

Tree Path (with businesses outside of downtown showing off their trees.

Snow Globe, Cactus Tree, Poinsettia Tree, 1,000 feet of garland

Equestrian parade of more than 50 horses

Luminary lighting,

Bonfire

Reindeer petting zoo

Christmas Boulevard, Candy Cane Lane, and Mistletoe Drive, and many statues of Santa scattered around.

Cookie decorating

Gingerbread house competition,

**Make your own hot chocolate**

**Food Stands**

**Hayrides**

**Winkle Tunnel**

**Ice Skating Rink**

**Musical Performances**

**Kids’ Zone (crafts, face painting, make your own hot chocolate)**

**Live Nativity**

Outdoor Christmas movies

# 22 Christmas Event Ideas

**Throw the perfect festive party this season using some of these Christmas event ideas to bring holiday cheer to all your attendees.**

Mix up the clichés, keep it classy and ensure the perfect Christmas event (or themed event if you’re reading this post-December.) It can be difficult to stand out during the holidays, particularly when there are many universal themes and ideas that can make parties and events blend into one another. However, with a bit of eventprof creativity, traditional ideas can be turned into wow factor and some of these inspirational elements can help you nail it.

Top of Form

## Balloon Grotto

Santa’s grotto is a traditional element for a Christmas party but if you don’t fancy the queues or hiring the real thing then you can recreate the effects! This example is an impressive display of balloon art that has everything from the candy cane lights to elves, trees and magical backdrops.

Credit: [Magic World Party](https://www.instagram.com/_magicworldparty_/)

## Natural Centerpieces

Take inspiration from the season in your centerpieces, like in this simple example that uses burlap material combined with natural winter forest elements such as the holly, berries and pinecones. A simple floating candle can also create impressive [lighting effects](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/17-amazing-event-lighting-effects).

Credit: [Set The Mood Decor](https://www.instagram.com/setthemooddecor/)

## Marketing Baubles

Make corporate décor stand out by using [guerrilla marketing](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/guerilla-marketing-for-events) efforts for your baubles. This example uses memes but you could add giveaway prizes for attendees, QR codes, branded baubles or sponsored décor to give attendees something to look at!

Credit: [TaylorHerringUK](https://www.instagram.com/taylorherringuk/" \t "_blank)

## Origami Tree Napkins

[Napkin art](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/napkin-art-designs) can spruce up a plain table and origami ideas like these Christmas trees can give attendees something to talk about and be wowed by. There are plenty of festive designs to choose from and it definitely makes [table settings](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/30-breathtaking-event-table-settings) more dynamic and personal for seated guests.

## Santa Brownies

Consider adding novelty food elements to your catering to tie food into event themes. For example, these simple brownie bites are given the festive treatment by simply adding frosting and fruit but they definitely fit right in. There are so many possibilities from food art to adaptations like this but these little elements can make a big impact.

Credit:[A LIST Guide](https://www.instagram.com/alistguide/)

## Brand Activation Igloo

If you want something different (with a little less mess) try creating winter effects using lighting such as this LED glass igloo which is branded for photo opportunities. It is classy and simple but has that winter or snowy atmosphere and it is bound to be a hit with attendees.

https://www.instagram.com/p/BO5WEGOhCHH/

Credit: [Tatiana](https://www.instagram.com/harmi_tan_tan/)

## Block Christmas

Create modular decorations for a quirky corporate idea over the holidays or for a low-key, space-saving alternative like this Christmas tree or 2D snowman. You could leave the kits to be built by attendees as a [participatory activity](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/participatory-activities-at-events) like a Christmas creation competition or build and use them as festive decorations for your event space.

Credit: [EverBlock](https://www.everblocksystems.com/" \t "_blank)

## Snowflake GOBOs

GOBO lights are so diverse and effective when it comes to transforming indoor or outdoor spaces and this is a great example of how simple snowflakes can turn an outdoor concrete jungle into a classy event space. Opt for different sizes or surfaces such as walls and ceilings for interesting “snowfall” effects.

Credit: [Romana](https://www.instagram.com/roma_hq2/)

## Hot Cocoa Station

Festive [food or drinks stations](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/18-fun-and-quirky-food-stations) like this hot cocoa stand will help you offer winter warmers and themed food favorites to your attendees. This is a fantastic idea for during the day but you could also offer alternatives such as eggnog, mulled wine, hot buttered rum or cranberry punch to give extra Christmas cheer.

Credit: [Oh My Gosh Events](https://www.instagram.com/o.m.g.events/), [Estee Lauder](https://www.instagram.com/esteelauder/)

## Snow Globe Photo Opportunity

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be inside a snow globe? This is the perfect opportunity to find out and create a photo opportunity for your event that will be a big hit among children and adults alike. This inflatable also offers branding and sponsorship opportunities and has snow that is blown for that falling effect in the photos.

Credit: [Spirit Entertainment](https://www.instagram.com/spiritentertainment/)

## Candy Cane Runway

Christmas red carpet in style by adding fun themes like this candy cane edging that also has ropes too! Straight out of the north pole, this runway would be an excellent entrance idea or even an adaptable queuing area that is a bit more festive for waiting guests.

**SaveCandy Cane Walkway | Event Prop Hire**Event Prop HireCandy Cane Walkway …

## Winter Bar

If you want less overt theming then incorporate the winter magic into your décor by drawing on traditional elements like these birch trees that are inbuilt to the bar and lit with warm candle lighting. It gives a classy Christmas feel without being too obvious and this shadow bar is also an excellent long-term idea because the inset area can be changed according to events or season for different effects each time.

Credit: [Celadon Events](https://www.instagram.com/celadonevents/)

## Ice Throne

More photo opportunities like this ice throne can be fun to get people involved but this simple idea using cut-outs is made more interesting by the lights and glitter backdrop. So although it’s fairly simple it is quite effective and perfect for any ice king or queen at the event.

Credit: [Lucky Decor](https://www.instagram.com/luckydecor.com.ua/)

## Tree Centrepieces

One tree not enough? If you are looking for tall centerpiece ideas then this could be an intricate Christmas twist for each table. The trees and leaves are all white and are decorated with ornaments and lights for a feel of bringing the outdoors inside. The tablecloths are also traditional Christmas greens and reds alternating to bring the room together.

Credit: [Party Time Philippines](https://www.instagram.com/partytimephilippines/)

## Framed Polaroid

Adding [nostalgia to events](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/the-power-of-nostalgia-for-events) is effective, particularly at such a reflective time such as Christmas or the new year when everyone is looking back on what they have achieved during the year. These polaroids are a great way for everyone to have a memento from the day and as you can see they can be branded with the event or company logo, as well as the details to remember. Simply place wireless cameras on each table and they connect to the print station where everyone can visit to see their snaps (which is a great networking idea too!)

https://www.instagram.com/p/BcUMFO4n3h4/

Credit: [Undisposable](https://www.instagram.com/undisposableaus/" \t "_blank)

## Snowman Desserts

Another intricate Christmas food idea that sees these delicious meringue and patisserie snowmen in their Christmas hats in glass “globes” around a venue. These would work well at a themed food station or on individual tables as they would double up as edible centerpieces too.

Credit: [Onder Balc](https://www.instagram.com/ondrblc/" \t "_blank)

## Gingerbread Head-In-Hole

A “head in hole” always injects a little [fun into the event](https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/notch-up-fun-factor-at-your-events) and these cute gingerbread men are bound to be a hit with attendees. Creating photo opportunities and adding to the décor of the space they could be scattered around the venue or added to a full photo booth. These are festive - who doesn’t want to see what they would look like a gingerbread man (or woman.)

**SaveGingerbread Wooden Photo Booth Prop Face in Hole Photo Op | Etsy**EtsyGingerbread Wooden Photo Booth Prop Face in by LittleGoobersParty

## Classy Trees

A tree is a staple for a Christmas event but if you don’t want something large, want to keep it simple and to avoid the tacky, this is an excellent alternative. These trees are a combination of chicken wire cones and floral spiral which give a floating cascading effect from afar. They would be particularly enhanced when lit up with string lights or using up lighting.

Credit: [UI Florist Workshop Fan Site](https://www.instagram.com/luckandji/)

## Outdoor Lighting

Don’t forget to adorn the outside of your venue as well but if you want to keep it classy then this elegant lighting perfectly highlights the magic, particularly for bigger or historic venues. The yellow hues change the atmosphere and work together with the lit Christmas trees so although it looks heavily decorated, it’s actually just clever but simple lighting.

https://www.instagram.com/p/BcUOOCcHBQS/

Credit: [Bittenjh](https://www.instagram.com/bittenjh/" \t "_blank)

## Specialist Props

What would Christmas be without fun photo booth props to mark the occasion, from these ideas of holding up mistletoe, antlers and of course, Rudolf’s nose you could also throw in some Santa’s hats and presents for attendees to hold up. Festive fun in a photo booth will always be a hit!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BcTf6PEAYcs/>

Holiday lights, Christmas decorations, and imaginative displays illuminate small downtowns around the country. Many families look forward to driving around town, enjoying holiday music performances and sharing Christmas cheer with their townsfolk.

These 14 small towns take the Christmas spirit to a new level. Each of these unique Christmas celebrations has something incredible to offer, from dazzling Christmas light displays and horse-drawn parades to costume contests and seasonal shopping markets.

Nevada City CA has a long tradition of hosting a 19th-century style Christmas pageant. Residents dress in Victorian outfits and pour into the streets to celebrate the season and shop for unique goodies at the local vendors. You can find items like handmade dolls, pottery, jewelry, Christmas decorations, clothing, and old-fashioned candy.

The Victorian festival features several lights shows as well as live entertainment. Families all over the city, clad in their costumes, take part in carriage rides and gather to meet Father Christmas. The festivities take place on five separate days in December, allowing everyone an opportunity to participate.

The entertainment includes performances by bagpipers, exquisite brass bands, and a slew of Victorian style parade floats and decorations, including gas lamps and Nevada City’s famous Walking Christmas Tree.

Grab some fire-roasted chestnuts and yuletide snacks and celebrate some holiday cheer with your whole family.

This magical mash of festivities stretches over the course of three weekends in December and includes countless hours of fun for everyone. The extended celebration consists of over 30 different activities catering to children and adults alike. Children enjoy breakfast and dinner with Santa, festive arts and crafts with Mrs. Claus, face painting, Christmas carols, the Festival of Lights, and an annual holiday theatre production at a local school’s auditorium. Adults can celebrate their Christmas cheer during the annual 5k event, the merry wine tasting events, the holiday-themed golf scramble, and much more.

Several spirited events take place throughout an extended Thanksgiving-to-Christmas holiday season observed in Christmas Town USA. The town plaza hosts the official lighting ceremony. The local elementary school elects one student to pull the switch, igniting more than 500,000 lights decorating trees, houses, and businesses in happy holiday colors.

The town also holds an annual 5k charity event the Saturday after Thanksgiving, where runners participate in a costume contest, and the race sponsors invite spectators to a holiday-themed post-race party! The party includes Christmas themed music and entertainments as well as yummy seasonal snacks.

The town of McAdenville also hosts an annual Yule Log Parade, a yearly occurrence since 1950. The parade consists of children pulling the Yule log through town on a sled, along with games and other celebratory events. The children drag the Yule Log to Legacy Park, where adults position it in a fire pit built specially for the event and set it on fire.

This event officially opens the beginning of the Christmas Festival, with music, crafts, food, and of course, an appearance by Santa Claus himself.

McAdenville, North Carolina is a small town with a big holiday heart.

The Festival of Trees, a bright, shiny, seasonal event, takes place annually in Bedford, Virginia. Residents sign up to display a decorated Christmas tree in the Bedford Welcome Center during December. Each year, the town chooses a new theme for the festival, and decorate the holiday trees accordingly. Families get to participate in the festivities and pay a small fee to vote for the best-decorated tree.

After the festival, the owners of the winning trees choose the charity to donate the voting fees.

This Festival of Trees, visual fun for the entire family, provides an opportunity for all to participate in the charitable side of the spirit of Christmas.

This annual celebration features the spectacular Lions Club Parade, an event that grandparents, mom, dad, and little ones can enjoy together. The massive parade includes more than 100 different entries each year.  
Expect to see several talented marching bands, fire trucks, emergency responders, elected officials, cheerleaders and tumblers, decorated animals, beauty queens, brightly lit floats, and, of course, Santa Claus! The event includes street vendors serving refreshments, festive music, and an entire crowd of people who share your love and enjoyment of Christmas cheer!

Christmas in Leavenworth is no ordinary holiday event. In this [historic Washington town](https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738581972), the entire family can enjoy the countless opportunities made available by the community to spread joy and the Christmas spirit. The town has a Nutcracker museum which displays nutcrackers from more than 40 countries around the world. Christmas festivities also include a Lighting Festival, with brilliantly lit trees and decorations. Cheerful marching bands play Christmas carols as well as local talent acts displaying magical holiday cheer. When the parade is over, Santa Claus arrives to join in the festivities, with photo opportunities for children and their families.

Later in the evening, the entire family can enjoy the famous *Christmas in the Mountains* concert which showcases local talent and encourages the crowds to sing carols along with the bands. For added holiday fun that will keep the whole family active, the local Mission Ridge Ski Lodge opens for the season, and the community partakes in activities such as snowboarding, sledding, sleigh rides, tubing, and snowshoeing.

christmas-celebration-divider-7.jpg

## [Shoppers Walk and Annual Christmas Tree Lighting](http://www.prosperitysc.com/page/shopwalk)

## Prosperity, SC

large-christmas-display-at-night.jpg

This small-town event never has a small turn out! Residents of Prosperity, South Carolina eagerly attend the town’s Shopper’s Walk On the first Saturday in December every year. This event allows families to get in the bulk of their holiday shopping early while enjoying the local entertainment and snacks from festive street vendors.

Participating business offer a special Shopper’s Walk retail event full of discounts and sales, making Christmas shopping fun and easy for everyone. The community lines the streets with holiday lights and Christmas cheer, making it more than just a shopping event.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting celebration also takes place during the Shopper’s Walk event. The town’s Christmas tree, positioned in the Town Square, is lit in the early evening. This ceremony includes holiday-themed carols sung by the local high school chorus, with residents singing along and watching by candlelight.

The Prosperity Christmas Parade takes place on the Sunday following the lighting celebration and the annual shopping. The parade features sparkling floats, clowns, and musical acts, as well as an appearance by Santa. Prosperity, South Carolina hosts an entire month of events that are sure to get the whole family into the Christmas spirit.

christmas-celebration-divider-8.jpg

## [Wassail Weekend](http://billingsfarm.org/woodstocks-wassail-weekend/)

## Woodstock, VT

[Woodstock, Vermont has an intriguing history](https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467125987), which directly relates to its incredible annual Wassail Weekend Christmas celebration. The celebration includes access to the town's beautiful, historic homes, decorated to match the winter festivities. Residents attend breakfast with Santa Claus, take part in caroling, join to make ornaments, and gather in the streets to experience Woodstock’s horse-drawn Christmas parade. The entire town attends this three-day festival event.

Decorated from top to bottom in shining tinsel and colorful lights, the Billings Farm and Museum, hosts residents and visitors taking part in the seasonal arts and crafts displays, serves delicious festive food and provides a great place to hang out.

The celebration takes place during the second weekend of December every year, and many East Coast residents regard it as one of the best Christmas celebrations in all New England.

christmas-celebration-divider-9.jpg

## [The Christmas Lanes Events](https://www.huronsd.com/visiting-huron/special-events/christmas-lanes)

## Huron, SD

christmas-lights-southern-ca-home-(1).jpg

This unique, wintry activity brings the entire community together to share their Christmas cheer. The tradition was started in 1962 when the small community, in the spirit of Christmas, decided to display matching candy cane décor. Today, the community comes still together every year in celebration, and selective neighborhoods craft an annual Christmas theme.

Sometimes as many as 20 neighborhood streets adopt themes such as “Disney Christmas” and “Candy Land” and then light up their yards respectively. The entire community enjoys the magical lights and animated Christmas themes throughout December.

The city of Huron awards a “Clark Grizwald Award” to the best lit residence every year.

christmas-celebration-divider-10.jpg

## [Christmas Card Town Celebration](http://www.elkhornchamber.com/pages/ChristmasCardTown)

## Elkhorn, WI

This festive celebration in small town Elkhorn, Wisconsin provides a weekend of holiday fun for the entire family. The celebration starts with the town Christmas tree lighting ceremony, where Santa Claus gets the honor of turning on the lights for the first time. Afterward, Santa retreats to the public library where boys and girls queue up to tell him their Christmas wishes. The following day Mrs. Claus joins her husband in the Annual Christmas Card Town Parade, which is full of music, lights, and holiday cheer.

The free hot chocolate, cookies, and the cozy small-town feel make Christmas in Elkhorn an extra special event for all attendees.

The town gained its nickname when a New York artist, Cecile Johnson, chose the quaint setting for a series of snowy paintings. Later, a publishing company published a collection of Christmas cards which displayed the paintings. Thus the city earned the label “Christmas Card Town.”

christmas-celebration-divider-11.jpg

## [City of Lights Festival](http://www.emporiumofcanton.com/events.html)

## Canton, MS

hanging-lights-ornaments-wooden-beams.jpg

The City of Lights Festival kicks off the Holiday season in this Mississippi small town every year. Residents from surrounding areas, including Jackson, Mississippi, flock to the scene with their families to spread their holiday cheer. The festival includes a brightly lit town square, displaying over 200,000 twinkling lights. Other activities include a Santa’s Workshop and an opportunity for children to sit on Santa’s lap and spill their holiday wish list.

The City of Lights Festival is jam-packed with festive foods, horse-drawn carriage rides, and children’s crafts and games. Canton’s famous animation museum takes part in the festivities as well, decorating itself with a special collection of lights and colors and allowing free access to the public.

The festival runs through December, ending two days before Christmas. The city turns on the lights every evening at 5 p.m.

christmas-celebration-divider-12.jpg

## [Christmas in Zoar](https://www.ohiotraveler.com/christmas-in-zoar/)

## Zoar, OH

christmas-celebration-quote.jpg

The small town of Zoar, Ohio offers a unique old-fashioned Christmas experience that includes classic German Christmas decorations, live musical entertainment, a craft show, seasonal treats, and much more. Zoar's celebration features a traditional German appearance by Belsnickle and Kris Kind. The town where with blacksmiths and craftsmen toiled and sold their wares relives its old traditions by inviting folk artists and crafters to display their talents and sell homemade goods.

The Christmas celebration takes place over two days. The city encourages residents and visitors to enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides through the brightly lit village streets. The Zoar United Church of Christ holds an open candlelight church service for all.

Following the service, the town lights their Christmas tree at the Historic Zoar Garden. There is a variety of activities for children, making this weekend-long celebration the perfect Christmas outing for the entire family.

christmas-celebration-divider-13.jpg

## [Christmas Town](http://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/seasons/christmas-williamsburg)

## Williamsburg, VA

Colonial Williamsburg’s Grand Illumination allows participants to travel back in time to experience how the Colonists celebrated the holidays. Events include caroling, concerts and musical performances and storytelling. Enjoy some traditional fayre in their one of the celebrated taverns, and incredible fireworks displays at the Capitol and Governor’s Palace.

Nearby Busch Gardens’ Christmas Town hosts a Santa’s workshop, and at dusk, the park comes alive with millions of twinkling lights.

christmas-celebration-divider-14.jpg

## [The Polar Express](https://www.sncrr.com/train-to-christmas-town/)

## Saratoga Springs, NY

This charming Victorian town is better known as home to Skidmore College and horse racing, but it transforms to a child’s winter wonderland between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The vintage Saratoga and North Creek Railway operates the popular Polar Express train for excited pajama-clad youngsters who adore the story and want to recreate the experience.

Christmas time brings joy to everybody, but some small towns pull out all the stops when celebrating the holiday. These 14 communities proudly showcase their history and traditions while spreading some holiday cheer through games, entertainment, food and of course dazzling twinkling lights.

#### NAVIGATION