

## Give the gift of fun!



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## Experiential gifts for kids

The popularity of experiential gifts is undeniable

Though children likely don't have a bucket list that · A day at a local museum with interactive exhibits



In its 2021 Winter Holiday Shopping Report, the market research firm Mintel revealed that nearly half of individuals surveyed for the report felt that experiential gifts are superior to tangible items. Such preferences are something holiday shoppers can keep in mind as they pursue the perfect gift for their loved ones.

Experiential gifts are often associated with adults and their bucket lists, but kids have much to gain from being gifted experiences as well. In addition to the lasting memories inspired by experiential gifts, such offerings also get kids up and out of the house. Parents recognize that's not always so easy in the digital age.

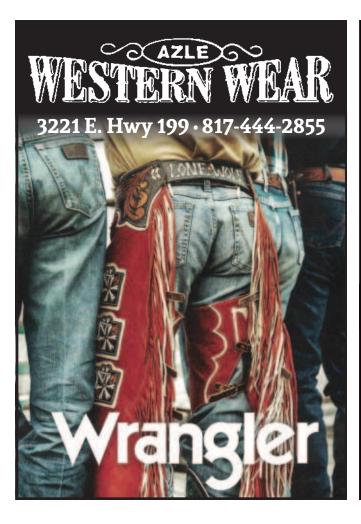
can make it easy for holiday shoppers to find the perfect experiential gift, the following are a number of experiences that kids of all ages can enjoy.

- $\cdot$  A day at the zoo
- $\cdot$  A trip to a trampoline park
- or bouncy house facility
- Tickets to a sporting event, concert or live show
- Music lessons
- $\cdot$  A paint and sip (juice) event
- with one or both parents
- · Cooking lessons
- $\cdot$  A day at a nearby national park
- $\cdot$  A camping trip
- Horseback riding lessons · A day at a nearby amuse-
- ment park · A day at a local arcade

- · A helicopter ride
- $\cdot$  Art lessons
- · A day on the ski slopes
- $\cdot$  A day on the beach
- · Gymnastics lessons/classes • A day at the local bowling
- alley with friends
- · Ice skating lessons
- $\cdot$  A round of mini golf
- · Jewelry-making lessons/ classes
- A fishing trip on a nearby body of water

There's no shortage of experiences that can benefit children's lives. That's something holiday shoppers can keep in mind as they shop for the perfect gifts for youngsters on their shopping list this December.

PHOTO COURTESY FORT WORTH ZOO Instead of material gifts, try tickets to the zoo.





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# Holiday cookies the whole family will love

#### **STAFF WRITER**

Many people enjoy baking come the holiday season, and perhaps no dish is more synonymous with holiday baking than cookies. Children leave cookies out for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, while adults may indulge and enjoy an extra cookie or two at family gatherings or holiday office parties.

Cookies come in all shapes and sizes, so bakers have an array of options at their disposal when planning their holiday menus. Chocolate chip cookies may be among the most popular types of cookies, and bakers who want to capitalize on that popularity while giving loved ones something a little different may want to try the following recipe for 'Double Chocolate Chip Cookies' from Maxine Clark's 'Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers' (Ryland, Peters & Small). Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugars together until pale and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla essence. Sift the flour with the cocoa and salt in a small bowl. Fold into the egg mixture with the chocolate chips.

Place 4 heaping tablespoonsfuls of the mixture on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them well apart. Press down and spread out to about ¼-inch thick with the back of a wet spoon or with dampened fingers (you may like to scatter some more chocolate chips over the top). Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool on the baking sheet for 1 minute, then transfer to a wire rack. When cool, store in an airtight container. Repeat with the remaining mixture.

#### **DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES**

Makes about 12 large cookies

- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 5 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 5 tablespoons light brown sugar, sifted

1 large egg, beaten

1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla essence or chocolate extract (see note)

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons self-rising flour
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

#### <sup>1</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> teaspoon salt

2/3 cup (or more) dark and white (or milk) chocolate chips (or roughly chopped chocolate)

A heavy, nonstick baking sheet

# Tips to prepare to host holiday guests

They're back! Family, friends and acquaintances are once again taking up residence on cots and foldout sofas across the country as loved ones gather to celebrate the holiday season. That's welcome news nearly three years after a pandemic first restricted such gatherings. But hosts must ask themselves: Am I ready to host house guests?

Travel is a big component of the holiday season. According to a 2021 survey by The Vacationer, a travel tip and vacation guide, nearly 63 percent of Americans age 18 or older planned to travel for at least one holiday in 2021, with most traveling in December. That marked a 37 percent increase in travel from a year prior. Holiday travel for 2022 may be even higher as families adapt to life during the pandemic. As individuals get ready to host holiday guests, here are some strategies to maximize space and make guests feel comfortable.

Every traveler is different. Some people thrive on making lists and following itineraries. Others fly by the seat of their pants. It's reasonable to ask potential house guests how they envision their visit, including if they plan to stay long and if it will include sleeping over. This way you can make accommodations accordingly, particularly if guests request to borrow a vehicle or want to see the sights.

· Create some extra privacy. While some homes are equipped to handle guests comfortably, smaller homes may not be equipped with such luxuries. Folding screens can be used to create a barrier and add some privacy in open spaces where guests will be staving. · Stash away travel samples. Travel-sized soaps, shampoos and lotions can make guests feel more welcome. Stock up at the grocery store or pharmacy and leave them in the room where guests will be staving. • Stock up on new linens.

Treat guests to fresh fluffy towels and new bed linens, especially if it's been awhile since you have restocked these items.

• Ask about food preferences. Your guests may not want to munch on kale chips and tofu hot dogs apart from the holiday meal. Don't push your food restrictions on others. Ask guests what they typically eat and then fill the pantry and refrigerator with some of the items they mention. When guests need snacks, they'll have familiar foods on hand.

• Be mindful of bedtimes. Consider guests' preferences about bedtimes. While you may be a night owl, some

guests may hit the hay much

children. If need be, make an

early birds are staying over.

flexibility. All that effort is

Hosting for the holidays

requires a little creativity and

well worth it when loved ones have a good time during their

effort to be quiet when kids or

earlier, particularly older relatives or those with young





• Discuss plans in advance.



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**December 10th & 11th, 7:00 pm** Celebrate Christmas Choir/Drama Presentation

**December 18th, 6:00 pm** Cards & Candles Service

December 25th, 10:00 am Family Christmas Service

January 1st, 10:00 am Family New Year's Service

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## Gifts for people who love the great outdoors

Certain people feel right at home in the great outdoors. With the sun on their faces and the wind in their hair, rock scramblers and kayaking buffs simply can't get enough of being outside in the elements.

Outdoor enthusiasts need reliable gear to make their experiences that much more enjoyable. Brandon Gaille Small Business & Marketing Advice reports that \$230.6 billion was spent worldwide on sportswear and outdoor apparel in 2021. However, there's always room to improve on adventures large and small, and holiday shoppers can keep these items in mind as they look for items for their favorite nature lover this season.

· Plasma lighter: A plasma lighter can start fires in conditions that aren't conducive to other fire-starting measures. Plasma lighters are water- and wind-resistant and work in nearly all weather conditions. Saberlight even makes a rechargeable option with USB charging cable.

· Lantern: Outside magazine recently named the BioLite AlpenGlow 250 as its new favorite road trip item. It can be used in a variety of settings, including inside a tent or at a hunting cabin, and produces customizable illumination.

Backpack cooler: Yeti is known as a leader in coolers, and the Yeti Hopper Backflip Soft Cooler makes carrying food and beverages





even more convenient. This product is a backpack and a cooler, so it's a hands-free and portable option when out in nature.

• Hiking socks: Keeping feet cool and comfortable is essential on hiking trips. Injinji socks are made from CoolMax fibers that help provide a blister-free wilderness experience designed to minimize friction.

• Waterproof backpack: Whether a loved one spends time in or near the water or just wants to safeguard his or her belongings in inclement weather, a waterproof backpack is the ideal outdoor gift. It's easy to clean and keeps items inside dry. IDRYBAG Waterproof Backpack is one to consider.

• Lightweight sleeping bag: Maybe someone's sleeping gear needs an overhaul? Enlightened Equipment offers an 850-fill, zero-degree sleeping bag that is warm, but only weighs 1.5 pounds. That helps free up space and lessens hikers' loads when carrying gear on the trail.

 Power bank/solar charger: Many people can't live without their devices, even when out in the great outdoors. Since you can't plug a phone into a tree, a portable solar charger and power bank is key. The BioLite SolarPanel 5+ comes with its own builtin battery, so a person can capture the sun's rays during the day and save some power reserves for charging after sunset.

These are just a few of the innovative items that can appeal to outdoor enthusiasts on your holiday shopping list.





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# Holiday gift ideas from Woodcraft for work areas, project skills and family fun

Give family and friends who are makers holiday gifts to bring comfort and efficiency to their work areas, provide new project challenges and add some family fun for good measure. Visit your local Woodcraft store, check the Woodcraft store, check the Woodcraft catalog or go online at woodcraft. com to learn more about the products described here plus thousands more.

#### WORK IN COMFORT AND SAFETY

Bring light to any work area with the NEBO Bright 6000 Lumen LED Light. No batteries, rewiring or charging required for this powerful, energy efficient light that fits into any standard household light socket. Adjustable LED panels can be tilted 90° for light direction.

The Kreg Mobile Project Center KWS 1000 is a workbench, sawhorse, assembly table, and clamping station all in one – a versatile work space for DIY, repair and woodworking projects. It is easy to set up and folds to 6½" thick for storage.

Sharpen circular saw blades, knives of all kinds, scissors, gardening shears and loppers, lawn mower blades and more indoors or outside with the M.Power 5N1 Double-Sided Diamond File with Handle.

Frameless Pyramid Itek Safety Glasses protect the wearer's eyes in applications and environments where a full field of vision is ideal, if not essential.

#### WOODBURN A GIFT AND MORE

Woodburning, also called pyrography, involves burning a pattern into wood or other material such as leather. Patterns may then be colored or otherwise embellished. Woodburning is an easy way to add your personal touch to gifts and ornaments. Learn how to make ornaments in this Woodcraft blog: https:// bit.ly/woodburnornaments.

The Wall Lenk 10-in-1 30 Watt Woodburning Tool and Accessories make it easy to begin woodburning and can also be used for soldering, leather craft, stencil, and Styrofoam cutting.

Learn the basic woodburning concepts and tips and techniques to inspire your creativity in Learn to Burn by award-winning artist and pyrographer Simon Easton.

#### HANDY HELPERS FOR FINE FINISHING

Gift your favorite finisher with the Earlex Super Finish Max Sprayer that has its 450-watt motor built into the sprayer to create a selfcontained HVLP system. It is ideal for custom-made furniture, cabinets, trim, spindles, craft projects, and even fences and walls. It works with oil- and water-based finishes. To learn more about this sprayer, read the blog or watch this video: https://bit. ly/SuperFinishMax.

To help reduce overspray, Wagner Spraytech Spray Shelters are ideal. Small shelter (2½' x 3' x 3¼') and medium shelter (4'7" x 4'7" x 5'6") each have a built-in floor. Large shelter (6' x 9' x 5.5') has no floor so use of a drop cloth underneath is recommended.

The lightweight Elipse Respirator OV/P100, available in two sizes, has an active carbon filter that makes it the perfect respirator for finishers. It is approved for paint vapors up to 5,000 parts per million, solvents, and Cyclohexene. It also offers protection against other dangerous fumes.

For finishing by hand, Redtree Onyx White China Bristle Brushes work for solvent-based coatings, including enamels, varnishes, urethanes, lacquers, and shellac. Redtree Brush Matey Synthetic Bristle Brushes work for water-based coatings.

Author Teri Masaschi shows how to choose, use and apply the perfect finish in Foolproof Wood Finishing, Revised Edition. Readers learn step-by-step as they work their way through 51 proven and easy-to-follow finishing exercises.

#### FUN FAMILY ASSEMBLY PROJECTS

SawDust Bros. Bird Feeder and Birdhouse Kits are perfect family projects to encourage birds to move into the neighborhood. Kits include precut pieces, Cedar shakes for the roof, window trim, detailed instructions, fasteners needed to complete the birdhouse or feeder, and in some cases, Plexiglas. Paint or decorate to suit any style.

PlaySTEAM Rubberband Aeroplane Science Planes Biplane and the High Wing Plane, Low Wing Plane and Seaplanes are educational kits that provide the perfect outdoor family project. Children age 14 and older will learn about aeronautics and physics as they assemble and fly a plane using the included booklet.

For those who like knives, the Camillus Titanium Fulgur



Liner Lock Folder Blade Kit is easy to make. Blade is made of cutlery grade stainless steel. Choose wood or man-made knife scales (sold separately) to shape, mount and finish a custom handle.

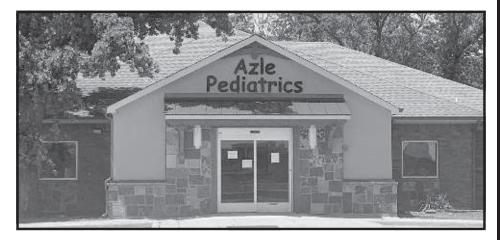
Visit your local Woodcraft store or woodcraft.com for more gift ideas and products.



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## COLORS OF CHRISTMAS Holiday Coloring Contest

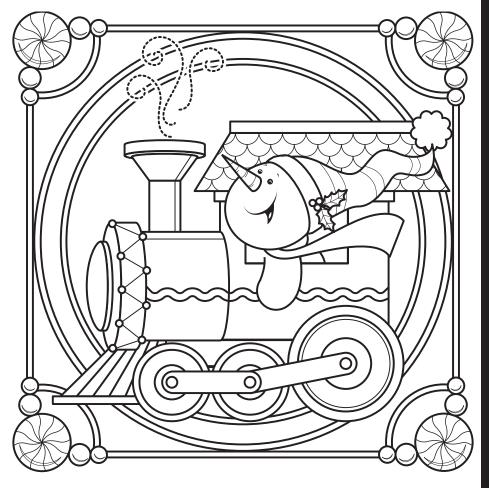
Picture it merry and then fill it in - do a great job and you could win!

## **CONTEST RULES**

- 1. Contest open to children ages 2-11.
- 2. 1st 3rd prize winners will be awarded in three age groups, 2-4 yrs., 5-7 yrs. and 8-11 yrs.
- 3. Only newspaper coloring sheet will be eligible for judging. No color copies.
- 4. All entries must be postmarked or delivered by noon to Azle Pediatrics, 604 S.E. Parkway, Azle, Texas 76020 on Friday, Dec. 14, 2022
- 5. All entries become property of Azle Pediatrics.
- 6. Entries will be judged on neatness, use of color, creativity and overall appearance.

#### Entries must be received by Friday, Dec. 14, 2022

NAME:		AGE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	
GRADE:		SCHOOL:	
PHONE:			



# How to navigate potential supply shortages this holiday season

The COVID-19 pandemic might not be over, but for much of the world, its darkest days are well in the rearview mirror. Despite that progress, a few lingering non-medical issues remain, including supply shortages.

Consumers across the globe have been forced to contend with supply shortages since the early days of the pandemic, and that same issue could cause problems this holiday season. Holiday shoppers can consider these tips as they try to navigate their way through another holiday season that could be affected by global supply chain issues.

• Shop local. By midspring 2022, the National Retail Federation indicated that congestion at ports on the west coast of the United States had lessened significantly. But the NRF noted that the same could not be said for ports on the east coast. Many big box retailers rely on imports to fill their shelves, and that could make it hard for such sellers to deliver items in time for the holiday season. Shopping local and buying items directly off the shelf can ensure no one is given an IOU this holiday season.

• Give gift cards. If shipping estimates make it unlikely that gifts will arrive on time for the holiday season, pivot to gift cards. Put the amount of money you would have spent on the item on the card instead. For example, if an e-reader costs \$150, give a \$150 gift card in its place.

· Ship directly to recipients. It might not offer the same heartwarming charm as handing a loved one a gift in person, but shipping gifts directly to their recipients increases the likelihood that the person will receive the gift by Chanukah or Christmas morning. Many online retailers now offer wrapping at additional cost, and shoppers can splurge and have directly shipped gifts wrapped to add a more traditional feel to gift-giving. • Give homemade gifts.

Homemade gifts, whether it's



Not only are goods being held up by labor shortages, but increased bad weather means a container ship can capsize before it reaches its destination, ruining shipments for millions of customers.

baked goods or crafts, don't need to be shipped, so there's no way such items will spend the holiday season sitting on a ship in a congested port. If you choose to make crafts, decide early what you want create so you can secure all of the necessary supplies in plenty of time to deliver the items during Chanukah or on Christmas morning. Supply shortages could make for a tricky holiday season again this year. Planning ahead for such shortages can ensure gifts make it into the hands of loved ones without delay.

## **REINDEER FOOD**

Servings: 24

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (20 ounce) package miniature pretzels
- 1 (17.5 ounce) package crispy corn cereal squares (such as Corn Chex®)
- 1 (16 ounce) jar salted dry-roasted peanuts
- 1 (14 ounce) package candy-coated milk chocolate pieces (such as M&M's<sup>®</sup>)
- 24 ounces white chocolate, chopped

#### DIRECTIONS

Cover a large area of counter space with waxed paper and tape it down.

Mix pretzels, corn cereal, peanuts, and candy-coated milk chocolate pieces together in a large bowl.

Melt white chocolate in the top of a double boiler over simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching.

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Pour melted white chocolate over pretzel mixture; stir to evenly coat. Quickly transfer mixture to the prepared waxed paper and spread in a thin layer; let cool completely, at least 30 minutes.





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## Gift ideas for the family do-it-yourselfer

Home improvement projects enable homeowners to transform their homes into their ideal living spaces. According to iProperty Management, most homeowners in the United States spent between \$5,000 and \$10,000 improving their homes in 2018. And it doesn't stop there, as home improvement sales are projected to reach \$465 billion in 2022.

Various renovation projects are best left to the professionals. However, many homeowners are eager to get their own hands dirty with various projects, large and small. Having the right tools and gear on hand can make projects go all the more smoothly. Holiday shoppers can consider these ideas as they seek to ensure DIYers have all they need to get the job done.

• Painting time-savers: Painting requires some basic essentials, from paint trays to rollers to brushes. Projects can be made more efficient with innovative products that help save time and reduce mess. One such item is a paint brush cover, which snaps over wet paintbrushes between coats so they won't dry out or require rinsing. Brushes that cut in easily and others with flexible handles for getting in tight places also make painting projects that much easier.

· Cordless drill: A mechanical drill makes easy work of assembly projects and general renovations that require screws as fasteners. A cordless rechargeable drill will be easy to maneuver when handling projects away from outlets. Going cord-free also reduces the risk of trips and

falls on errant cords.

• Lawn care subscription service: Home improvements extend to the exterior. In addition to mowers, trimmers and garden shears, DIYers may benefit from subscription products that improve on property care. These formulations are customized to the specific needs of homeowners' lawn or landscaping greenery and are shipped right to their door.

• Rotary tool kit: This is one of the most versatile tools homeowners can have on hand. A rotary tool can engrave, grind, sharpen, polish, cut, carve, and more depending on the accessory attachment.

· Multi-use ladder: A ladder is a necessity for various projects inside and outside the home. One that can transform into an A-frame, scaffold system, staircase ladder and other configurations helps ensure maximum safe reach for the job at hand.

· Composter: Whether you use an indoor kitchen composter or one designed for outdoor use, being able to generate one's own compost is great for avid gardeners. Compost, often called **Òblack** gold,Ó is made from kitchen scraps, leaves and other items that break down into a rich fertilizer.

· Tool box/tool organizer: Tool storage is a market all its own. It runs the gamut from rolling metal storage containers to plastic or metal boxes to canvas bags to plastic molded curated kits. Tool organizer kits also come at various price points, so it's easy for shoppers to choose one that fits their budgets.

· Organizing units:



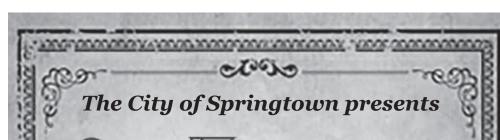
Home improvement projects enable homeowners to transform their homes into their ideal living spaces.

Organizing units are available in prefabricated kits that are easily assembled when needed, as well as custom-made products that are installed by a professional. They may be an option for a handy person looking to organize tools and other items for home repairs.

Do-it-yourselfers can be even more handy with tools geared toward their interests and repair needs.







## Great gifts for school-aged children



These gift ideas can appeal to school-aged youngsters at a time in their lives when their curiosity is always piqued.

Successful shopping for adults on a holiday list often involves identifying a loved one's favorite hobby and then finding something that makes that hobby even more enjoyable. For example, a new e-reader can be just what the family bookworm needs to make reading even more immersive.

School-aged children may not be so simple to shop for, as their interests are always evolving and they tend to outgrow toys as quickly as their growing bodies outgrow their clothes. No two kids are the same, but these gift ideas can appeal to school-aged youngsters at a time in their lives when their curiosity is always piqued.

• STEM gifts: Parents know that the term OSTEMO is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. These academic disciplines have gained heightened importance over the last couple of decades, and STEM-based toys are available for kids of all ages, including children who are still in diapers.

· Nature-based gifts: Many parents do everything they can to reduce the amount of time their kids spend looking at screens, which is a tall order in the digital era. But various manufacturers produce toys designed to help kids be more physically active in the great outdoors. From age-appropriate binoculars that encourage kids to explore natural settings to birdhouses and fairy gardens kids can build and paint in their favorite colors, shoppers can choose from a host of nature-based gifts that encourage kids to get away from their screens and enjoy the great outdoors.

• Board games: Board games remain a wonderful way for kids to learn and have fun doing it. Board games are made for kids of all ages, and they're not just fun, but also beneficial to early childhood and distributor Scholastic that board games requiring strategy help the frontal lobes of the brain develop. Those lobes are responsible for planning, organizing and decision-making. Board games also provide opportunities for families to spend quality time together free from distractions.

· Cookbooks: Cookbooks are another great gift for school-aged youngsters, who can learn a lot from pitching in at dinnertime. Children who cook with their parents can learn valuable lessons about nutrition and measuring ingredients can reinforce lessons learned in the classroom. Shoppers can choose from any number of cookbooks designed for kids, and even children as young as two can pitch in when baking cookies or preparing family meals.

Shopping for school-aged children during the holiday season can be made easier with some suggestions that can reinforce classroom lessons while keeping the focus on fun.



## Safety first when buying toys for children this holiday season

December is a special time of year for children, millions of whom await the arrival of Santa Claus and the bounty of toys he delivers each year. When buying holiday gifts for youngsters, adults must consider safety. According to the Alliance for Children and Families, approximately 217,000 children are treated at hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries each year. Holiday shoppers are urged to stick to age-related recommendations on product packaging and avoid toys that do not contain the ATSM (American Society for Testing and Materials) label.





many toy manufacturers now make products that reinforce STEM lessons kids learn in the classroom in a fun way.

development. For example, clinical psychologist Beatrice Tauber Prior, Psy.D. noted to the children's book publisher



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## Avoid these 4 charity scams

Charitable giving grew in 2021. According to Blackbaud Institute, a social good innovator, giving not only increased after COVID-19, but actually rebounded more than it had in a decade – increasing in the United States by 9 percent overall.

Annual private philanthropy as a percentage of GDP is about 1.44 percent in the United States. Philanthropy Roundtable reports that rate in Canada is 0.77 percent.

People tend to give the most to charity at the end of the year. While legitimate organizations may step up their solicitation of donations at this time, scammers also realize the months of November and December is prime giving season. So many scammers increase their deceptive tactics to cheat unsuspecting individuals at this time of year. Here are four common charity scams that every prospective donor should be

aware of. 1. Impersonating another

charity Most philanthropic groups have an online presence in some shape or form. Scammers will replicate the look of the charitable group's website or social media account, or may contact you through email or text to solicit funds. Thinking it is a legitimate charity, you may follow a link to enter donation information.

To avoid this scam, do not click on any links. Rather, enter the exact email address of a charity, if you know it, or use a trusted resource like Charity Navigator for contact information. If you're still leery about online transactions, call the charity and ask to be sent a donation statement in the mail, which you should be able to mail back postage-paid.

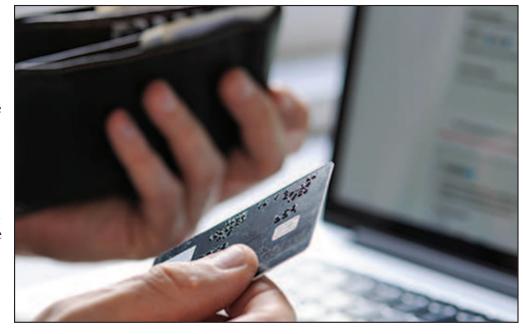
2. The hard sell A legitimate charity is happy to welcome a donation any Federal Trade Commission

time you're able to give it. A scam operation may employ a hard sell or a deadline by which the donation must be made. In addition, a fraudulent 'charity' might ask for payment only by cash, gift card or wire transfer (because it is difficult to trace), and this should raise a red flag that something is amiss.

3. A thank-you for your donation

AARP warns that some scammers will send you a thank-you for a donation that you supposedly already made to entice you to give again. This is designed to lower your inhibitions about a soliciting charity. It's always a good idea to keep records of charitable giving, especially for tax-related reporting, so you can easily verify if you gave to a group in the past.

4. Cryptocurrency wallet As methods of making payments change, scam groups often ride the wave. The



learned that when the govern- the funds getting sent to the ment of Ukraine announced it would be accepting donations to support their efforts via a cryptocurrency wallet, scammers started getting in on the action. But instead of

government's wallet, the donations headed to a private wallet.

Always conduct an online search of the wallet address to confirm that money is being sent to the right place. Typically you can't reverse cryptocurrency payments, so due diligence is required.

Individuals need to be extra cautious with charitable giving to avoid common scams.



## Gifts to rev auto lovers' engines

Since they first became widely available in the early 20th century, cars have inspired no small number of passionate devotees. Some people simply can't resist the thrills of the open road, while others love driving because of the sense of independence it provides. Regardless of what inspires their passions, come the holiday season, auto enthusiasts undoubtedly would be excited to unwrap these auto-related gifts.

• Car wash kit: It's one thing to drive, and another thing entirely to drive a car that looks like it's fresh off the dealership lot. Car wash kits come in various sizes,

so they're ideal for holiday shoppers working with various budgets. Kits may include wet wax, wheel gel, glass cleaner, a short handle brush, and microfiber towels, among other supplies. Each accessory within the kit can make cars or trucks shine and look as good as new.

 Mechanics' tool kit: Many car lovers enjoy working on their vehicles almost as much as they love driving them. That makes a mechanic's tool kit a must-have for auto enthusiasts. Like car wash kits, mechanics' kits are ideal gifts because they can suit shoppers working with various budgets. Extensive

kits include all the tools car lovers need, from ratchets to extension bars to sockets and more, to spend a fun day working in the garage.

Tire inflator: All those miles on the open road is bound to catch up with tires over time, and a portable tire inflator can ensure tires are always properly inflated. Cordless varieties are popular, but so are options that can be plugged into vehicle lighters. Either way, this is a must-have item for anyone who puts a lot of miles on their vehicle.

• Autocross lesson: Of course, gifts for auto lovers needn't be restricted to help-

ing them take care of their own cars. Autocross lessons can teach drivers the finer points of timed competitions while enabling them to get behind the wheel of an exotic car they've dreamed of driving. Autocross schools typically have classes for drivers with experience as well as novices, making this a fun gift for anyone who wants to take the thrill of driving to the next level.

There's no shortage of gift ideas to please the auto enthusiast on your holiday shopping list this year. There's something for everyone who loves being behind the wheel.



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