

Caring for Creation in the Christmas Season

Use our Care of Creation holiday cards to deliver gifts and donations that are environmentally friendly.

Give Gifts of Experiences:

- **Give your kids a membership to the St. Croix Valley Cross-Country Ski Club for kids 3-13.** SCVSC uses ski-games, play, and adventure to foster a life-long love for winter and the outdoors. It meets Sundays, Jan. 8 - Mar. 5 from 1-3 p.m. at William O'Brien State Park. Cost: \$30/child, a maximum of \$75/family (plus State Park Pass) Bring your own equipment. Club Ski Swap will be held on Dec 4. Ski equipment also can be found on craigslist.org or skinnyski.com (Classifieds or Swaps). Contact: stcroixvalleyski@gmail.com. for details.
- **Give a class at the Marine Mills Folk School in Marine on St. Croix.** They offer traditional crafts and skills in woodworking, fiber arts, baking and other arts and crafts. There are classes for all ages and some intergenerational classes too. <https://marinemillsfolkschool.org/>
- **Give a gift certificate for a local theater.**
- **Give your family a night out that sparkles at Sam's Christmas Village.** The attraction, located in Somerset WI, is lit up with over 8-million Christmas lights, a 50ft animated tree, and 25 new Christmas displays. Open 7 days a week November 25 -January 1. <https://samschristmasvillage.com/>
- **Give your family an outing to the World Snow Sculpting Championship,** January 18-22, 2023. Teams from around the world will be in Stillwater to create amazing snow sculptures while competing for prize money and the title of World Champion. <https://greaterstillwaterchamber.com/WSSC>
- **Give your family an outing to the Hot Air Affair in Hudson,** (Feb. 3-5, 2023, <https://hudsonhotairaffair.com/>)
- **Give an educational course on a CD, DVD, or download from 200 choices.** www.TheGreatCourses.com

Give A Gift Of Your Time Using Your Own Special Skills:

- **Cooking** - a special meal or freezer meals to be used later
- **Baking** pastries or breads
- **Gardening** - planting or maintaining
- **Painting** - house, room design, portrait, wall art
- **Home maintenance** and repair
- **Cleaning**
- **Transportation** to see friends and relatives
- **Hosting a backyard party** (low Covid risk)
- **Organizing an event** - such as a charity fundraiser, family reunion, wedding rehearsal dinner, children's party
- **Musical performance** at an event, party, or family gathering
- **Bookkeeping** - tax preparation, checkbook balancing, home budget preparation
- **Car repair**
- **Pet walking or pet sitting**
- **Computer setup or servicing**
- **Travel companion**
- **Exercise partner**
- **Interview and create a biography** of a special friend or relative
- **Lessons** in your specialty

Make Your Own Homemade Gift Ideas:

- **Homemade coupon book** with ideas that would appeal to your loved one such as “Breakfast in bed,” “Clean the dishes,” “Helper for the day,” and especially for Mom -- “One hour of uninterrupted quiet time”.
- **Scavenger hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt with clues that lead to a special homemade gift.
- **Make your own candles and bath bombs** for the person in your life that loves relaxing baths.
- **Paint rocks for paperweights**
- **Make blankets, drink coasters, knit scarves** from reused cloth and yarn
- **For more gift ideas that kids can make,** see: <https://happyhooligans.ca/40-useful-gifts-kids-can-make/>
- **Collection of favorite family recipes**
- **Oral-history recording of an elderly friend or relative**

Donate To A Charity In The Recipient's Name, Such As:

- **ELCA World Hunger** - www.elca.org/hunger
- **Lutheran Social Services** - www.lssmn.org
- **OSLC giving tree**
- **Second Harvest Heartland** - www.2harvest.org
- **Habitat for Humanity** - www.habitat.org
- **Heifer International** - www.heifer.org
- **Twin Cities Public Television (TPT)** - www.tpt.org
- **Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)** - www.mpr.org
- **Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp** - lakewapo.org
- **Minnesota Business Ventures' business camp for youth** - bestprep.org/minnesota-business-venture
- **YMCA Camp St. Croix** - <https://www.ymca.org/locations/ymca-camp-st-croix>
- **St. Jude Children Hospital** - www.stjude.org
- **Minnesota Land Trust** - mnland.org
- **Nature Conservancy** - www.nature.org/en-us/
- **National Audubon Society** - www.audubon.org
- **Sierra Club** - www.sierraclub.org
- **Local theater and performance groups**
- **Local music groups**
- **A specific OSLC program or need** - oslctillwater.org
- and many more.

Make Your Holiday Traditions Environmentally Friendly:

- Send e-cards, or use recycled paper cards.
- Use recyclable paper, cloth wrapping, or reusable bags in place of non-recyclable Christmas wrap.
- Add organic and local foods to your holiday meals.
- Purchase environmentally friendly products, such as beeswax candles, sustainable bamboo products, and fair trade items that support local farmers and artisans.
- Use only LED Christmas lights with a timer.
- Use real dinnerware instead of paper or plastic.
- Shop local and at alternative gift markets - <https://fpc-stillwater.org/alternative-gift-market/>