

# Hints for a Very Merry Santa Visit

## *Have your cameras ready!*

Be sure the batteries are fully charged or that you have all the film, video – tape, etc. To take the photos you want or need.

Reserve a special parking space for Santa!

Please remember, Santa is a senior citizen. If he parks down the street or around the corner and has to walk all the way to your home or office he might be a bit winded or exhausted when he gets there. His heavy velvet suit gets very hot, even in December.

If the visit is at your home, please leave an opening at the end of your driveway. Have some fun and use a box, saw horse or chair with a sign, “Reserved for Santa”.

At a company facility, office building or hotel, please make arrangements for Santa to valet park or use a loading area. Again you can mark this with a sign for your guest to enjoy.

Santa wants to arrive fresh and ready to bring the joy of the season to your special guest.

## *Have your gifts ready!*

If Santa is to make his entrance with the gifts they should be labeled, easy to read and fit into a Tall Kitchen trash bag.

Additional gifts may be brought to Santa by a helper or pre-placed his chair.

## *Get everyone together before Santa enters!*

Timing is everything and Santa will be with you for a limited amount of time.

Santa will call a designated coordinator five minutes before he arrives. That's your cue to get everyone together, maybe sing a Christmas song or two, and send someone outside to meet Santa and coordinate any presents. At the right moment Santa can arrive and join in the festivities.

If you have a large group of children, it's a good idea to have an enthusiastic helper coordinate the order of the Santa visits and introduce each child to Santa.

## *Have a sturdy chair for Santa to use!*

Folding chairs and low chairs are not good. A good straight-back dining room chair works well. In order to have children sit on his knee Santa must sit-up “wide” and on the edge of the chair. Santa should be able to sit comfortably and have a child on each knee

## *Place Santa's chair near your Christmas tree or in a holiday setting!*

Your photos will have more impact if the background has a festive look.

If you don't have a tree, placing a wreath, a few Christmas cards or your children's drawings on the wall can make a wonderful background.

Leave a foot or two between the chair and the tree or wall. This will allow room for others to gather around and behind Santa's chair for group photos

## *Think about photos with everyone!*

Yes, some teenagers will shy away or think it's too childish to have a photo with Santa. But before the session is over most will get in the spirit and want to participate. Santa can stand up for a “buddy” photo with teens and adults.

Remember to include the seniors in the audience. Take a photo with Santa and Grandma hugging. And, nothing is more fun than having Santa ask Grandpa if he's been a good boy!

Have a small bottle of water available by Santa's Chair as Santa does get hot and thirsty.

## *If there is a balance or payment due to Santa, please place it inside a Christmas card or envelope.*

It never looks appropriate when someone gives cash to Santa. So as Santa is departing, hand him the envelope and say, “Thank you, Santa, and here's a Christmas card from all of us.”

*\*A special thanks to Santa Tim Connaghan as we have adapted the above information from his book "Behind the Red Suit"*

