

## 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. 9 - Mar. 6 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 12. Ski equipment also can be found on craigslist.org or [skinnyski.com](http://skinnyski.com) (Classifieds or Swaps). Contact: Katie Brekke, [catherine.brekke@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.brekke@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 our local community theater, Zephyr.** You'll find theater productions, music, and classes for the whole family. <https://www.stillwaterzephyrtheatre.org/>
- **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 26-January 2. <https://samschristmasvillage.com/>
- **Give your family an outing to the inaugural World Snow Sculpting Championship,** January 18-23. 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 Fire and Ice Winter Social** featuring hot air balloons in Lowell Park in downtown Stillwater Jan. 28-30. On Saturday, come for a free ice cream cone at Washington County Historical Society's Annual Ice Cream Social.
- **Give an educational course on a CD, DVD, or download** from 200 choices. [www.TheGreatCourses.com](http://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](http://www.elca.org/hunger)
- **Lutheran Social Services** - [www.lssmn.org](http://www.lssmn.org)
- **OSLC giving tree**
- **Second Harvest Heartland** - [www.2harvest.org](http://www.2harvest.org)
- **Habitat for Humanity** - [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)
- **Heifer International** - [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)
- **Twin Cities Public Television (TPT)** - [www.tpt.org](http://www.tpt.org)
- **Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)** - [www.mpr.org](http://www.mpr.org)
- **Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp** - [lakewapo.org](http://lakewapo.org)
- **Minnesota Business Ventures' business camp for youth** - [bestprep.org/minnesota-business-venture](http://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](http://www.stjude.org)
- **Minnesota Land Trust** - [mnland.org](http://mnland.org)
- **Nature Conservancy** - [www.nature.org/en-us/](http://www.nature.org/en-us/)
- **National Audubon Society** - [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)
- **Sierra Club** - [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)
- **Local theater and performance groups**
- **Local music groups**
- **A specific OSLC program or need** - [oslcstillwater.org](http://oslcstillwater.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/>