

Holiday GIFT GUIDE



Outdoor Enthusiast

Many people love nature, but some have a true passion for it and spend every moment of free time enjoying the great outdoors.

That's great for gift-givers, because it makes things easy when the holidays come around.

From the latest hunting gadgets to the toughest hiking boots, gifts are easy to find for the outdoor enthusiast. Your local gun shop, gardening center and farm store are great places to start on your quest for the perfect gift.

TYPES OF GIFTS

When choosing a gift, be aware of any specific activities your friend or loved one enjoys doing while outdoors. This will help narrow the shopping time as well as the list of stores you hit while looking for the perfect gift.

There are many different types of activities the true nature-lover may enjoy, such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, rock climbing and bicycling. The selection of gifts associated with each of these activities is vast, so you shouldn't have a problem coming up with a great present.

Bird-watching, gardening or simply enjoying some time on the back patio also are common outdoor activities, so be creative when thinking of how to best surprise the lover of the outdoors in your life.

GIFT IDEAS

After targeting the recipient's favorite outdoor activities, start shopping. Some outdoorsmen would appreciate

a high-quality pocket knife or extra-durable, double-lined jacket for warmth. Those trekking the trails might enjoy a new set of hiking boots, and the angler might relish some high-end tackle. A survivalist or a passionate camper could use a good tent or new outdoor gadget. Bird watchers might love a new pair of binoculars or a camera.

Crafts, chimes, bird feeders or anything made from natural products would excite the homebodies on your list who enjoy beautifying their yards, gardens or flower beds. Buy a new plant, flower or beautiful pot for the gardener.

TAKE A TRIP

Of course, the ultimate gift for the outdoor enthusiast is a trip to a natural wonder he or she hasn't seen before. Check with your local tourism organizations to see if they offer any such excursions. They will help you coordinate flights, cabin rentals and more.

If you'd like to stay local for your trip, look into hunting and fishing outfitters in your neck of the woods. These groups can arrange a trek around your local lake or hunting grounds. Many have cabins with great amenities for you and your guests to enjoy while you learn new things about the outdoors right in your own backyard.



Music Lovers

Music can soothe the soul and put us in our happy places. It is universal in its appeal and inspires many great gift ideas.

Musical tastes vary by person. That is why there are considerable amounts of variety and genres from which to choose. When considering a musical gift, be aware of an individual's musical style, as well any music they already own.

FOR THE LISTENER

A newly released CD of their favorite singer is absolutely a great gift for music lovers. Bands also put out limited-edition albums that your friend or family member may not know about. Search your local music shop for these gems, which can make for thoughtful gifts this holiday season.

Giving the gift of a musical experience is always a great idea. Surprise them with tickets to a much-anticipated upcoming live music performance.

Digital music players are coveted gifts, especially for the young music lover in your life. Load up a prepaid card for music downloads or give a gift card to your local music retailer.

FOR THE ROCKER

Some music lovers are actually gifted musically themselves. The young ones might love a gift of piano or guitar lessons or even singing lessons. A spectacular gift would be a new musical instrument.

Your downtown music establishment is full of gifts for the rocker in all of us. Drumsticks, guitar picks or a



new microphone would make for great stocking-stuffers, while a new acoustic guitar or electric keyboard would look great wrapped and under the tree.

FOR THE MUSIC HISTORY BUFF

With the expanse of great artists and bands that have graced the musical

charts over the years, there are many museums and institutions devoted to celebrating our country's musical milestones. A trip to a museum or hall of fame may be in order. Do some research and coordinate all of the details. You can even visit your local music store to buy CDs or digital

downloads for music related to the museum you are visiting to make it a themed road trip.

For example, if you're visiting Dollywood or the Grand Old Opry, stop by your local music shop for some country-themed CDs to make your road trip all the more memorable.

Couples

Some gift-givers prefer buying for couples. Doing so allows for a bit of a higher budget per gift. It also can be easier to find a collective gift rather than finding presents for individuals.

Whether it is a young married couple or your adult children and their spouses, a couples gift is a great idea that shows how much you care.

SHARED INTERESTS

Take note of any shared interests of the couple, because that way, the gift can be geared toward that common ground. This will increase the odds that both of them will be happy with the gift, and that is the overall goal, right?

They both might enjoy the same type of music or movies, so the latest CD or movie release would fit the bill. Some couples have a mutual passion for traveling. A gift idea for them might be a new set of luggage or plane tickets to an adventuresome destination.

If they both like the outdoors, give them equipment to go camping or hiking. Many couples like to do puzzles or crafts together. There are many budget-friendly gift ideas that would be right up their alley.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Couples often need household items, and these traditional gifts allow you to knock out two birds with one stone. Some newly married or young couples may need things such as a set of dishes, pots or towels. Bigger items such as a flat-screen TV or a piece of furni-



ture would make for exceptional gifts.

If they don't really need anything or they are more established, a colorful scented candle or a personalized picture frame can be a fun gift. How

about a gift card to your local home improvement store?

Every couple has a few home projects in mind.

OTHER OPTIONS

Some couples might be

humored by a matching set of sweatshirts or hoodies. Novelty gifts fly off the shelves this time of year and can make memorable presents that you will talk about for years to come.

For food and drink options,

consider buying a good bottle of wine with a set of beautiful wine glasses. Local wineries are the place to shop for these. Foodies will appreciate a gift card to the best local dining establishment.

Donating to the Needy

The holidays are the perfect time to buy for those in need. There is nothing more uplifting than to meet someone's need through a special gift that makes them smile.

Getting involved with local charities or soup kitchens during the holiday season is a great idea — one that hopefully sticks with you throughout the year. Because even though the holidays bring out the givers in all of us, people who are in need actually need help year-round.

HIGH-PRIORITY GIFTS

There are many ways to buy gifts for those in need, but you may be wondering where to even start. The first thing to do in this situation is to check with your local giving organizations to find out if there are specific needs this holiday season.

Their professionals will be able to point you toward high-priority items, such as personal care products (hair and skin products, toothpaste, razors) or gifts for kids (school clothes, shoes or coats). Many organizations are dedicated to these types of causes, so start there for ideas on how you can help this holiday season.

PRACTICAL GIFTS

Preparing and delivering a holiday food basket can be a great way to help those in a homeless shelter this year. Again, coordinate with management to find out their requirements and the best way to deliver these types of items. They may have policies in place that limit



what types of items you can gift to their residents.

Pick up a card off a holiday Angel Tree and teach your children about giving to the less fortunate. Although these gifts are anonymous and their impact to the receiver unknown, it's a special way to change someone's Christmas.

GIFTS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

"In need" doesn't necessarily have to mean poor or homelessness. There may be people in your life struggling with grief during the holidays. A gift of encouragement may be what they need more than anything.

Purchase an inspiring book or offer to

simply take them out to dinner. A special tree ornament, jewelry or perfume also make for great pick-me-up gifts. Don't underestimate the power of your words of encouragement. Gifting a card with some personal words of wisdom or prayers would be priceless for those seeking support from others.

Parents

Parents are some of the most important people in our lives. Giving them gifts during the holidays or any time is just a good way to say that we appreciate them. There are many gifts tailored toward those who mean so much to us.

Some people give individual gifts to their parents, while others prefer a couple's gift. Either way is fine, but a combined present might be more challenging if they tend to have opposite tastes.

For Dad: A father might enjoy a new watch or wallet. Many of them like to tinker with tools or love to cook outside. A new barbecue grill and accessories might be right on target. If they are active, new golf equipment or fishing lures could thrill them. Even if they are generally inactive, these gifts might encourage some healthy activity.

For Mom: Mom might like beautiful jewelry or skin care products. Pretty flowers or trinkets to beautify her home are always a safe bet. A new outfit or piece of clothing is great for moms of all ages. During the cold season, a new warm blanket or throw is a considerate and practical gift.

For Both: Sometimes a larger gift is appropriate for the parents in your life. If you want to update their technology, a cell phone, flat-screen television or computer is the way to go. If you really want to surprise them, pay for plane tickets to an amazing destination, or if possible, pay for the whole vacation.

GIFTS OF MEMORIES & TIME

Memories become increasingly important as we age. Some nostalgic gifts inspire happy feelings from our parents' glory days and can make for great ideas this holiday season.

A traditional but favorite gift for parents is new and updated pictures of the family or grandkids. Those pictures serve as reminders of the family legacy they are building on a daily basis.



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Don't forget the most priceless gift someone can give their parents and that is the gift of time. That might entail taking them out to dinner or

spending the day with them just drinking coffee.

Helping with a needed home improvement project or paying for

someone to do it is invaluable for parents young and old alike, so be creative with your gifts and spoil your parents a bit this year.

The Boss

Your boss plays an important role in the growth of you and your family, and hopefully, he is a friend, as well. A thoughtful gift will relay your gratitude this year.

Depending on your relationship, it may be appropriate to give your gift during work hours or at a Christmas party. If your boss is actually a friend or family member, you can give your presents in more informal settings.

WHAT DOES YOUR BOSS LIKE?

The overall work environment will contain clues to great gift ideas. Observe her office space or take note of any conversations that might reveal potential interests. If it is obvious by the way your boss dresses that she loves fashion, a trendy scarf might be in order. Ask other co-workers for advice or go in together for a bigger gift, such as a gift certificate that lets her pick out exactly what she wants. If her family visits often, ask family members for some ideas since they know your boss best.

GIFT IDEAS

In an office environment, anything that is personalized with a name and company logo is an option, including mugs, pens and office supplies, or even a good-quality calendar or organizer.

If he is a sports enthusiast, maybe buy him tickets to a coveted game, or he might enjoy some golf lessons. Lovers of the arts might enjoy theater, comedy or movie tickets.

Never underestimate the powerful gift potential of homemade baked goods. If you love cooking, why not put that personal touch into your gift?

GIFT CARDS

Giving gift cards has never been more popular. Here are some ideas for local establishments that would make for the perfect present for your boss:

- Music shop for instruments or cultural civic center for popular plays;
- Wine trail or fancy dining establishments;
- Downtown arts and crafts store specializing in home decor;
- Hardware store with plenty of options for the handy homeowner; and
- Book shop for avid readers and researchers.



The Reader

Many people on your list, young and old, have a real passion for reading. They are always ready to tell you what book they're devouring at the moment and can rattle off a list of their favorite author from every genre.

These enthusiasts can be tough to buy for because you may not be sure exactly which books they have read over the years. A little creativity in your gift-giving can go a long way toward finding the perfect present.

There are many reading subsets, from fiction and non-fiction to biographies and true crime. Knowing what your friend or family member prefers is a great first step to finding the perfect gift.

BOOKS OR TECHNOLOGY

Reading has a new venue in the form of modern technology. This adds to your choices because there are now multiple formats in which readers can enjoy books.

E-readers are perfect for tech-savvy readers. These devices are always coming out in newer, better equipped models, so help your friend stay on top of technology with the latest offerings.

Traditional books come in soft or hardbound copies. Hardbound are generally more expensive but are better for collecting and showcasing on shelves. Consider the type of reading your book-lover prefers before buying that new bestseller.

YOUNG READERS

Reading is vital to the development of children. Giving



opportunities to read as well as a variety of reading material at a young age will encourage reading.

Family members and caregivers can play significant roles in developing reading readiness, and the easiest time to learn is during the early ele-

mentary years. That is a great reason to choose books as gifts.

OTHER OPTIONS

Newspaper or magazine subscriptions are another option. Gift-givers could choose local or national newspapers. Magazines that spe-

cialize in topics such as fashion or hunting, or those tailored to children are good options.

A lot of people have favorite authors, so purchasing an book autographed by the author would be an unforgettable gift. Another possibility

would be an autographed collector's item.

Audio books are great for traveling long distances or for those who are more geared toward that type of learning. Of course, you can never go wrong with a gift certificate to your local bookstore.