



HOLIDAY

GIFT GUIDE

Give Experiences

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are realizing that the best gifts aren't things, they're experiences.

Here's your guide to how to give the best experiences that won't break the bank this holiday season.

MEMBERSHIPS

Buy a family — particularly one with young kids — a yearly membership to a museum, zoo, aquarium or other local fun activity. Within just a few visits, these memberships usually pay for themselves and are a great, year-long activity they can take advantage of. Make sure that you purchase the appropriate level of membership for that group. Some family memberships, for instance, cap out at four or five family members. If your family has more, or frequently visits with friends, consider going up a level.

SEASONAL PARK PASSES

For the adventurer, consider a seasonal state or national park pass that gets them in the gate free all year round. A U.S. national park pass is \$80 for the general public and can be purchased at any federal recreation site, online at the USGS store, or by calling (888) ASK USGS, extension 2. Senior passes, military passes and



© ADOBE STOCK

other types of passes may cost less or even be free.

Check with your state's division of state parks for more information on state park passes.

VOUCHERS

Give the gift of a voucher (or several vouchers) to their favorite places. Around the

holidays, lots of places offer service gift certificates — think nail salons, spas, barbers and more — or vouchers for future use, such as those for cooking classes, tours, amusement park tickets, movie tickets and other things. This gives the recipient flexibility to choose the best time to redeem their gift and

get the best experience for them.

PLAN A DAY AWAY

Pick a local festival, fair or other activity and plan the whole day. Start with breakfast at a favorite restaurant, then a picnic lunch and maybe dinner under the stars. Don't forget to hit up their

favorite activities, rides and more, and throw in a few things that they wouldn't normally do for themselves. Don't have a favorite? Find one that you've never been to before and book the whole day for them. You can even get creative with the wrapping, with clues to what you're going to do.

Charitable Gifts

Gift-giving to the person that has everything just got easier.

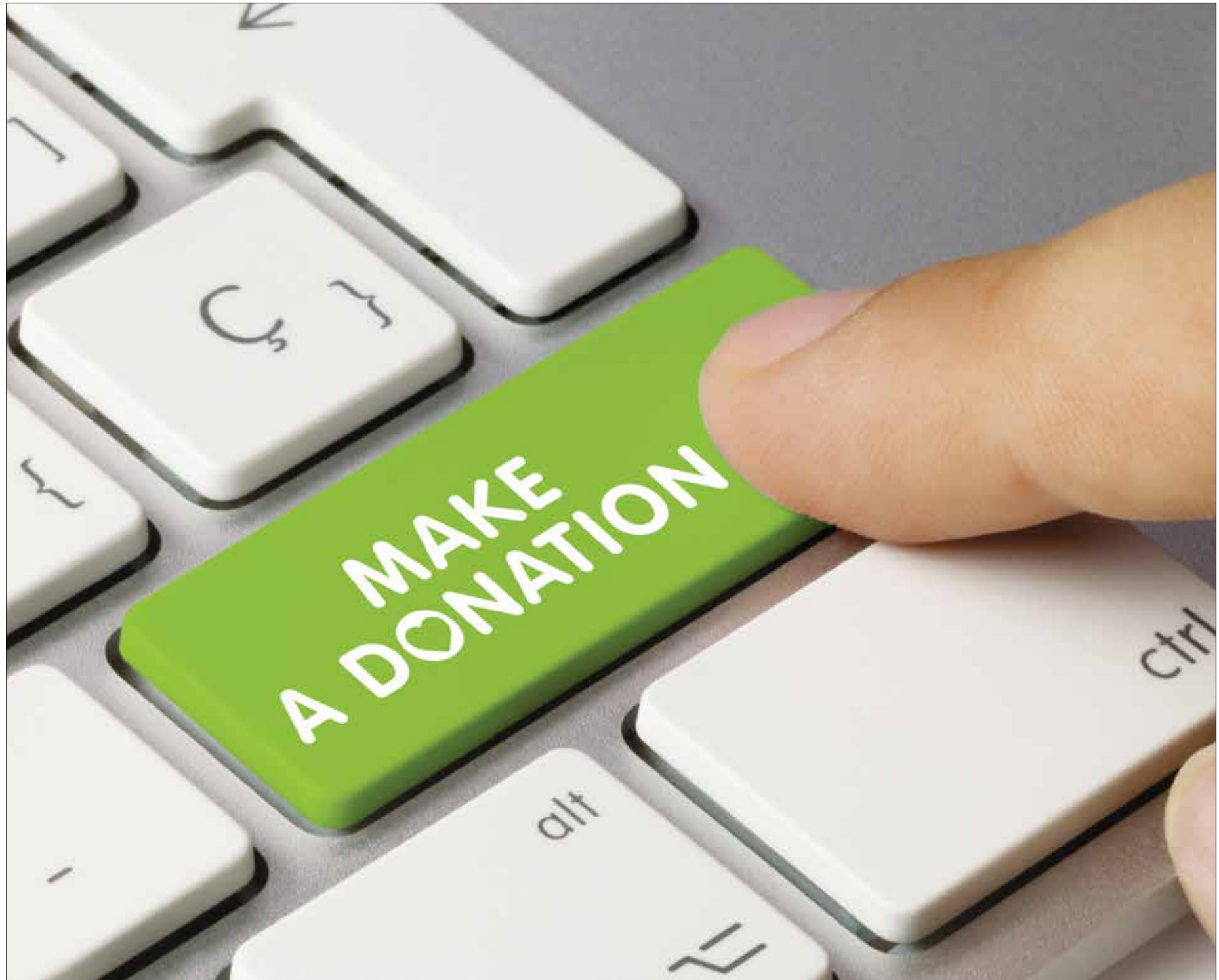
You can give them the warm fuzzies all year long by supporting a cause that's dear to their heart. Get started giving the best gift ever now.

FINDING A CHARITY

First, think of the person you're giving to and think of the causes they enjoy supporting or might enjoy supporting. If they have a house full of rescue dogs, consider animal charities, for instance. Then find a charity worth giving to. You can use sites like Charity Navigator to find organizations that responsibly use your donations. It also gives you suggestions on different topics, so you can browse by interest, too.

MAKING THE GIFT

Next, choose how much you want to give. Different charities may have different levels of giving for you to peruse, but remember that every little bit helps. Heifer International, for instance, maintains a gift catalog that allows you to choose concrete examples of what your money goes to. A flock of chicks is \$20 or \$10 per month. You can purchase a goat for a family for \$120, or shares for \$10. Ducks are \$20 each, honeybees are \$30 and so on. The organization will then send them free honor cards to let them know you gave on their behalf.



© ADOBE STOCK

GIVING THE GIFT

Like Heifer International's honor cards, most organizations will contact the person you're giving on behalf of to let them know. They may even send something beyond a card, such as when you adopt an ani-

mal at a wildlife organization. The World Wildlife Foundation offers a Tub of Cubs or a Bucket of Frogs (don't worry, they're plushies) to help your recipient learn more about wildlife conservation in a cute and fuzzy way. You can also choose other

stuffed critters if cubs and frogs aren't your thing.

REGULAR GIVING

You may choose to have your gift go out monthly, quarterly or annually on behalf of your recipient, setting up a gift that

keeps on giving. For smaller organizations, a long-term gift, even if it might be smaller than a lump-sum gift, makes it easy to plan programming to help their cause. Your recipient will appreciate it, too, as it stretches out the gift all year.

Gifts for Sports Fans



© ADOBE STOCK

Hit a home run, score a touchdown, cross the finish line — whatever it is your sports enthusiast is into — with these great holiday gifts.

IGLOO LITTLE PLAYMATE COOLERS

This one also gets you right in the nostalgia. Igloo's iconic Little Playmate coolers are the ones everyone's dad had, and now they come in great team colors. Look for their favorite NFL team for around \$50 on Igloo's website. Not into football? Igloo also offers lots of colors and even a few pop culture references.

BASEBALL PARK MAP PINT GLASSES

Every true baseball fan has a favorite stadium and a favorite team, and they might not even be in the same place. Check out a set of pint glasses that lets them sip their favorite cold brew from their favorite

stadium's glass. You can get a variety of stadiums, including Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox; Chicago's Wrigley Field, Houston's Minute Maid Park, Yankee Stadium and more. Find them at Uncommon Goods, \$38.

NEW YORK TIMES PERSONALIZED GOLF HISTORY BOOK

This personalized, leather-bound chronicle of the greatest players and tournaments of all time is a beautiful look back at some of golf's greatest moments. It's a coffee-table sized book that will be a conversation piece for years to come. Get it for \$80 online at The New York Times Store.

STANLEY CUP POPCORN MAKER

Score a hat trick with this hot-air popcorn maker

in the shape of Lord Stanley's cup, proclaiming loud and proud a love for both hockey and healthy snack foods. It makes 128 ounces of popcorn at a time and includes a removable serving bowl. Find it online for around \$80.

TICKET STUB DIARY

If you've got a sports fan whose tastes go far beyond any one playing field, consider a ticket stub diary to help them keep track of all the great moments they've witnessed. You can find a plethora of diaries online, even some personalized options on sites such as Etsy and Amazon. Starts at around \$30.

SPORTS TEAM MEMORY MATCH CARD GAME

A classic mix-and-match card game featuring illustrations from your favorite team. Includes college, Major League Baseball and NFL teams. Great for passing time at the tailgate or during that rain delay. \$14.95, from The Grommet.

Outdoors, Outdone

Give the gift of adventure for the outdoors lover in your life. Check out these great gift ideas to get them out there.

TENT CAMP LIGHTS

Available in a variety of colors, these tough LED lights perfectly illuminate your tent or campsite. They run on 3 AAA batteries and have three lighting modes, off, full light and flicker. The storage case for the 100 inches of Big Agnes mtn GLO LED lights includes a pyramid-shaped storage case that doubles as a lantern. Get them at REI for \$29.95 each.

GCI OUTDOOR FREESTYLE ROCKER

Get your outdoor lounge on with this comfortable and lightweight rocking chair. It holds up to 250 pounds and includes a cup holder. Folds for compact storage. It comes in maroon and gray and navy and gray. Around \$70, depending on color, at Amazon.

ELECTRIC SHOE AND BOOT DRYER

Never have cold, wet feet again with this PEET M97-FS Original Dryer. Bonus: It gets out odor-causing bacteria as well, all without deteriorating the materials. It also has a 25-year warranty. Get it for \$50 at Tractor Supply.

LEATHERMAN FREE P4 MULTITOOL

This top-of-the-line multi-tool has 21 tools, including scissors, knives, pliers and wire cutters, all on the outside of the tool so you can deploy any of them with one hand. It's made in Oregon and comes with a 25-year warran-

ty. \$150 at Walmart.

DARN TOUGH HIKER MICRO CREW CUSHION SOCKS

You won't get far with bad socks, so get the best there is with these moisture-wicking socks with cushioning for all your outdoor activities. Darn

Tough also guarantees its socks for life. Comes in several colors and three sizes, \$24.

JETBOIL FLASH COOKING SYSTEM

This tiny pocket rocket of a camp stove boils water in just over a minute and half. It features a push igniter, so no

matches are required, and the bottom cover serves as both measuring cup and bowl. It's compatible with other Jetboil accessories, including the coffee press, cooking pot, frying pan and more. Fuel not included, cool factor free. Available in a range of colors for \$114.95 at REI.



Give the Gift of Time

Ask most anyone these days what they wish they had more of, and they'll answer time.

The good news is that you can finally wrap that up and put it under the tree with the gift of a few of their favorite services to save them time.

HOUSE CLEANING

When you decide to gift a service, start with one that takes up the most time. Book an introductory house cleaning service and give your loved one those hours back to take for themselves. Introductory cleanings are usually longer (and more expensive) than normal cleanings, so take this into consideration when booking. Also ask for future rates if your recipient decides to continue regular cleanings.

CAR DETAILING

There's no busy parent on this planet that wouldn't welcome a nice, clean car, even if it's just while they sit in the pickup line. Book a car detailing service and let your recipient have that new car feeling again. Bonus points: Grab a mobile detailing service that will come to your recipient's home or office so they don't have to go out of their way or spend a day (or two, depending on how bad it is) without a vehicle.

BABYSITTING/PETSITTING

Speaking of busy parents,



© ADOBE STOCK

give them a night out sans kids for a hot date or even just to go grocery shopping in peace by booking a few hours with a neighborhood sitter. Or offer to take the kiddos yourself and treat them to dinner out and ice cream, just make sure you don't run into Mom and Dad.

If your recipient's kids have four legs instead of two, or sports feathers, book petsit-

ting for their next getaway instead. You can get a voucher from their vet or favorite boarding kennel, or even from home-based services such as Rover.

GROCERY DELIVERY

Having a week's worth of groceries deposited on your doorstep feels next-level luxurious, and is a kindness that many busy people appreciate.

Offer up a gift certificate for whatever delivery service works best in your area, or get them a premium membership for the gift that gives all year.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

Book a few weeks of a laundry service that washes, dries and folds, all for a simple fee. Anyone who has ever spent time staring at the dryer for a clean pair of pants will appreciate your forethought.

ciate your forethought.

A note about giving services: Make sure to choose a service that your recipient is comfortable with. Not everyone is OK with someone coming into their house to clean, and other people make take it as a snide commentary. It's the thought that counts, so make sure to put some thought into what services your recipient will appreciate.

Tech Gifts for 2022

It's hard to stay ahead of technology these days, but when you have a techie in your life, you've got to give it a try.

Here are some of the smartest, geekiest gifts to give this holiday season.

SMART FISH FINDER, \$149.99, SHARPER IMAGE

This tiny bobber houses sonar that will tell you where the fish are, how deep they are and how big they are, all within seconds of hitting the water. It works in both salt and fresh water and is good for ice fishing and night fishing. You can get 10 hours of fishing on a single charge. The Smart Fish Finder is compatible with iPhone iOS 11 or later and Galaxy/Android OS 6.0 or later.

ANKER SOUNDCORE PORTABLE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER, \$27.99, AMAZON

Popular Mechanics ranks this little speaker among the best Bluetooth speakers on the market. Water-resistant with simple controls, it's a great companion for outdoor adventures. It plays for 24 hours on a single charge and pairs up to 60 feet away.

LOGITECH C920S WEBCAM, \$74.50, WALMART

Work-from-home warriors can get behind the need for a



© ADOBE STOCK

great webcam. Zoom into that meeting with 1080p video, high-definition auto focus and automatic light correction. This tiny Logitech cam also features dual microphones so they can definitely hear you now.

YOOTECH WIRELESS QI CHARGER, \$14, AMAZON

Bye, tangled USB cords. Hello, freedom. More tech devices than ever before use wireless charging, so get onboard with this quick Qi charger. Compatible with a variety of devices and with a

stocking-stuffer price tag, this tiny gift packs a big punch.

FORM SWIM GOGGLES, MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP VARIES, FORMSWIM.COM

These smart swim goggles show live metrics in the lenses as you swim, allowing you to track improvements in real time. It gives you workouts, shows your effort level and gives you progress updates. The goggles are fully adjustable with seven different nose bridges to ensure a snug, custom fit. One charge gives you

16 hours of battery. The goggles are also compatible with a range of smart watches for open-water swimming.

AquaSonic Black Series Toothbrush, \$59.45 at Amazon

Yes, even toothbrushes are high-tech these days. This ADA-approved electric toothbrush comes with six brush heads and a travel case. Its lithium ion battery charges wirelessly and it features four brushing modes to help you to your brightest smile ever. The travel case uses UV lighting to kill 99.9% of germs after you're

done brushing.

MAKEBLOCK MBOT NEO CODING ROBOT KIT, \$129.99 AT AMAZON

If you've got a techie kid on your list (or kid at heart), look no further. The mBot lets them build and code their own robot, learning programming all the while. It can be built in one hour and the open-source software allows for hundreds of add-on packs. It can also hear, remember and speak voice commands. It's OK if you want one, too.

Sit, Stay, Gift

These gifts are better than a long walk for both pets and their people.

CUSTOM PET PORTRAIT PHONE CASE, \$50 WEST & WILLOW

Protect your phone with the cute mug of your favorite pet with this wireless charging compatible phone case from West & Willow. Choose your favorite pet photo and upload it with your order, choose your phone model, pick your illustration and shipping and you're all done. Not into phone cases? The company offers a complete line of merchandise, including framed portraits.

PLAYOLOGY SILVER DRI-TECH DENTAL ROPE DOG TOY, STARTING AT \$14.99, DEPENDING ON SIZE, AMAZON

This toy is specifically designed for older dogs who need softer material for aging teeth and gums. Playology embeds scent into their toys so that it doesn't fade and it doesn't get old and, most importantly, humans can barely smell it. It's also easy to clean and you can't wash away the scent from the toy. Comes in peanut butter and pork sausage scents.

DASH DOG TREAT MAKER, \$29.95, WILLIAMS SONOMA

Churn out your own homemade doggie goodies with this



© ADOBE STOCK

bone-shaped dog treat maker. The adorable, waffle-iron type cooker comes with a recipe book full of recipes to drool over and a portion of the proceeds benefit the North Shore Animal League America, Port Washington, New York.

PERSONALIZED PET SOCKS, STARTING AT \$6.99, ETSY

Get your pet's face emblazoned on socks for their favorite human using PetPartyCo

(or one of the other shops on Etsy). Upload, choose your sock and colors, and off you go. Gifting done. You can also add personalization to your sock.

HYPER PET DOGGIE PAL CRAB INTERACTIVE DOG TOY, \$17.97, AMAZON

This crab has skills! He wiggles, vibrates and barks to goad your dog into playing, encouraging exercise and reducing anxiety and bore-

dom. The toy takes 3 AAA batteries and has an automatic stop feature to save on battery life.

K&H THERMO-KITTY DELUXE HOODED CAT BED, STARTING AT \$55.99, CHEWY

Soft, cuddly and warm, this bed features a dual thermostat heating unit to keep kitty cozy. It's also easy to clean with a washable cover. Available in two sizes and two

colors. For indoor use only.

PETFUSION AMBUSH INTERACTIVE CAT TOY, \$22.95, AMAZON

Awaken the hunter in your cat with this stimulating interactive cat toy that mimics prey popping out from the bush. LED lighting means your cat can play day or night, keeping them nimble and engaged. You can get replacement feathers when your cat eventually wears these out.