

Liberty Hill



The National Western Stock Show & Rodeo

January 10-25, 2026

Each winter, nearly 700,000 people visit the National Western Stock Show, an extravaganza of about 30 rodeos, 11 horse shows, and countless other attractions just a couple of miles from the heart of Denver. For so many visitors from the increasingly urbanized West, the Stock Show offers a rare window into Western tradition and the incredible importance that agriculture and ranching industries have made to revolutionize our daily lives.

For many other visitors, the National Western Stock Show is a pilgrimage, a gathering of the extended family that sustains and defines the West. Since the first Stock Show in 1906, it has been a place where generations of farmers and ranchers – people whose hard work feeds the rest of us – spend time reuniting with old friends, learning about new approaches and techniques in agriculture and ranching, and doing some business, year after year.

National Dress Up Your Pet Day

National Dress Up Your Pet Day on January 14th provides a special day to celebrate with your pet and show off their fashion style. Pets do become part of one's family. Whether you take a visit to the groomer or take it a step further and dress up in matching outfits, be sure your pet companion is safe and comfortable.

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Fun Indoor Activities For Long Winter Evenings

Winter evenings offer a wonderful opportunity to slow down, enjoy cozy time indoors, and strengthen your bond with loved ones. Whether you're looking for laughter, creativity, or relaxation, there's no shortage of ways to make those chilly nights warm and memorable. Here are 15 creative indoor activities to help your family make the most of those long winter evenings.

1. Cook an International Feast.

Spice up your dinner routine by picking a country and cooking a meal inspired by its cuisine. Make sushi rolls for a Japanese night, prepare Italian pasta from scratch, or try Mexican tamales.

Get the whole family involved in chopping, mixing, and tasting. Add an educational twist by looking up fun facts about the country while you cook.

2. Plan a Themed Movie Marathon.

Nothing beats curling up for a movie night when it's frosty outside.

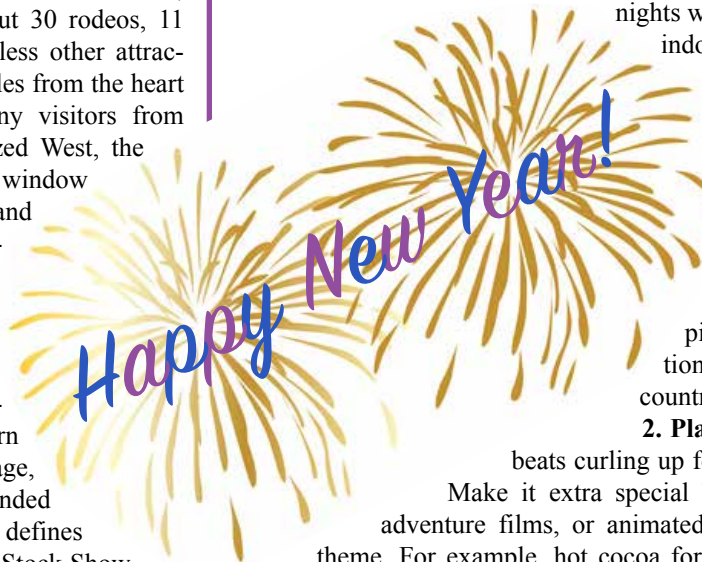
Make it extra special by choosing a theme—holiday classics, adventure films, or animated favorites—and matching snacks to the theme. For example, hot cocoa for winter-themed movies or nachos for an action-packed flick.

3. Turn Game Night into a Tournament. Whether it's classic board games, card games, or trivia challenges, a family game night is a recipe for laughs and good-natured competition. Create a mini-tournament, complete with a scoreboard and small prizes for the winners. For added excitement, have everyone bring their "A game" with silly team names or costumes.

4. Bake Your Family Favorites. There's something about winter that calls for baking. From gooey chocolate chip cookies to warm banana bread, baking together is both fun and delicious. Let each family member choose a favorite recipe, or try something new each week. Don't forget to sample your creations fresh out of the oven with a glass of milk or a cup of tea!

5. Create a Family Vision Board. Gather old magazines, scissors, and glue for a night of dreaming and planning. Encourage everyone to cut out pictures and words that represent their goals, hopes, and dreams for the year ahead. Share your boards with each other and talk about how you can support one another in reaching those aspirations.

6. Build a Blanket Fort and Have a Storytelling Session. Transform your living room into a magical hideaway by building a blanket fort. Pile it high with pillows, string up fairy lights, and settle in for an evening of storytelling. You could share memories, tell favorite family tales, or invent silly stories together. It's a nostalgic activity that's just as fun for adults as it is for kids. *continued on page 2*



Indoor Activities, *continued from front page*

7. Take a Virtual Adventure Together. Travel might not be on the agenda, but virtual adventures are just a click away. Explore online tours of famous landmarks, museums, or even space! Let each family member pick a “destination” and guide the group through a virtual journey. It’s an educational and inspiring way to explore the world from your couch.

8. Have a DIY Karaoke Night. Unleash your inner superstar with a karaoke session at home. Use a karaoke app or find instrumental versions of your favorite songs online. Whether you’re belting out classics, crooning to love songs, or having a dance-off, the energy and laughter are guaranteed to warm up any winter night.

9. Have a Puzzle Marathon. There’s nothing more satisfying than finishing a big jigsaw puzzle as a family. Set up a cozy puzzle station, make some hot chocolate, and spend the evening working together to fit the pieces. For an extra challenge, try a puzzle with a winter scene or a holiday theme.

–By Kari Owens

Fitness Goals: Setting Up For A Successful Resolution

- Be Specific & Realistic: Instead of “get fit,” aim for “walk 15 mins, 3x/week”.
- Start Small: Build momentum with achievable mini-goals, like “exercise snacks” throughout the day (stairs, jumping jacks).
- Find Your Fun: Choose activities you genuinely enjoy (dancing, hiking, sports) to make it sustainable.
- Schedule It: Block out workout times in your calendar like important meetings.

Staying Motivated

- Get a Buddy: An accountability partner or group provides support and consistency.
- Track Progress: Monitor small wins to build confidence and see how far you’ve come.
- Reward Yourself: Celebrate milestones with non-food rewards like new gear or a spa day.
- Fuel Your Body: Ensure you’re eating well and staying hydrated, and don’t forget sleep and rest days.

Overcoming Obstacles

- Plan for Setbacks: Prepare for illness or travel by having backup plans (e.g., hotel gym, walkable area).
- Don’t Aim for Perfection: If you miss a workout, just get back on track with the next one; consistency is key, not a rigid schedule.
- Focus on Enjoyment: If exercise feels like a chore, you’re more likely to quit; find joy in the process.

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Winter's Work: Rest, Renewal And Resilience In The Garden

When the garden settles under a blanket of snow, it can feel as though everything is lifeless and still. But in reality, winter is not wasted time; it's a season of rest and recovery. Just like people and animals, plants benefit from downtime, and the cold months are essential for their long-term survival.

In winter, many plants enter a state called dormancy, nature's version of sleep. Dormancy is far from passive; it's an active survival strategy refined over millennia. When temperatures drop and daylight wanes, perennials, shrubs, and trees respond by redirecting their energy from leaves and flowers down into their root systems. This strategically allows plants to conserve resources during harsh conditions while preparing for spring's explosive growth.

Winter does more than recharge individual plants – it also benefits the larger ecosystem. Freezing temperatures naturally suppress pests and diseases, keeping populations in check. Cycles of freezing and thawing help break down leaves and organic matter, thereby enriching the soil. Snow, often called "the poor man's fertilizer," insulates plant roots, adds moisture and slowly releases nitrogen into the ground as it melts. In this way, the cold season is as much about renewal as it is about rest.

Some plants require a certain amount of cold before they can germinate (a process called cold stratification) or flower. Many beloved garden plants, from peonies to fruit trees, require a specific number of "chilling hours" below 45°F to break bud properly come spring. Without this cold period, flowering may be sparse or entirely absent. It's nature's quality control mechanism, ensuring plants don't waste energy blooming during

unreliable warm spells that could end in frost damage.

Colorado native plants are masters of winter survival. Species like penstemon, blanket flower and pasque flower have evolved alongside our dramatic temperature swings and intense sun exposure. Their dormancy strategies are finely tuned to our semi-arid climate, where winter moisture slowly percolates into the soil while plants rest. By incorporating natives into your garden, you're working with plants that have perfected the art of thriving through Colorado's challenging winters, emerging each spring with a vigor that comes from generations of adaptation.

For those who love their gardens, winter can feel like a long wait. But it's worth remembering that this downtime is essential. Resist the urge to overprotect perennials from the cold; many need the chill. Instead, embrace winter as nature's way of giving your garden a chance to recharge. While the plants are resting, we can do the same – dreaming, planning and preparing for the vibrant burst of life that spring will bring.

— By Pam Rosendal, Colorado Master Gardener

National Clean Off Your Desk Day

January 13 is an opportunity to begin your new year with a clean and organized workspace. Whether your desk is in a private or shared office, cubicle, home or a make-shift desk on the counter, having your workspace uncluttered and organized will help you work more efficiently. A clean workspace improves productivity and inspires us, too. It often gives us a sense of serenity.



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Where To Ice Skate Around Denver This Winter

DENVER:

McGregor Skate Ice Rink, 1901 Wazee St., Denver

Nov. 28 to Jan. 25. The only option to skate downtown this year is at the McGregor Square plaza, near Coors Field. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$9 for children, including skate rentals.

LAKESWOOD:

The Rink at Belmar, 439 S. Teller St, Lakewood

Nov. 21 to Jan. 4. The Rink at Belmar is in Lakewood’s shopping district. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for kids, including skate rentals. There also are winter wagon rides around Belmar, which depart from the plaza where the rink is located. “Drinks Around the Rink” will offer beverages for sale from Great Divide Brewery & Roadhouse, Little India, Tstreet and Wasabi Sushi Bar. The rink opens at 4 p.m. on weekdays and noon on Saturday and Sunday. Closing times vary and can be found on their website.

ARVADA:

Skating in the Square, Olde Town Square at 57th and Olde Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada

Nov. 26 to Jan. 29. The skating rink in Olde Town Arvada is open seven days a week and you can skate under the lights of the Olde Town Tree.

The rink opens at 4 p.m. Mon-Fri and 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The closing times vary, as well as the holiday hours, and can be found on the website. Admission plus skate rentals costs \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids 11 and under.

EVERGREEN:

Evergreen Lake, 29612 Upper Bear Creek Rd., Evergreen

Evergreen Parks and Recreation is offering ice skating and other winter activities at Evergreen Lake. It costs \$15 per person, or \$20 with skate rental. Children 4 and under are free, or rent the whole rink for \$150 per hour. Annual passes cost \$200. The rinks may close due to weather.

PARKER:

Parker Ice Trail at Discovery Park, 20115 E. Mainstreet, Parker

Nov. 28 to Feb. 28. Located next to Parker’s library on Mainstreet, this ice trail is one of the only in the country, according to its website. The rink opens at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sundays and 5 p.m. on weekdays. It closes at 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 p.m. on Sundays. The trail is meant to imitate a frozen river or canal. People can buy day passes for \$10 or season passes for \$165, with skate rentals included.

AURORA:

The Pond at Southlands, 6100 S. Main St., Aurora

Nov. 7 to March 1. This rink is in Aurora’s Town Square shopping center and is open seven days a week. The rink is open Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. It opens at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday and closes at 10 p.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$15.50 online and \$14 in person, including skate rentals. The rink is surrounded by the outdoor mall’s shops and restaurants.

–<https://denverite.com>



As we wrap up 2025, the stats show a steady market with no significant value increase, but no sharp declines, either. It’s taking longer to sell homes, and sellers who are putting more preparation into selling their homes and pricing reasonably, are selling pretty well at solid prices. Buyers, rates are pretty stable and there are a lot of homes to choose from! We are in a more normal market, which isn’t a bad market, it’s just been an adjustment from the Seller’s Market we were in for a decade. Sellers, if you are thinking about selling, January-April is usually the best time!

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The 12-12-12 Rule

The 12-12-12 rule is a simple decluttering method where you find 12 items to throw away, 12 to donate, and 12 to relocate to their proper homes. This approach helps tackle clutter in a manageable way by providing clear goals, and it can be used to refresh a specific area, like a closet or cabinet, or adapted to larger spaces.

How to use the 12-12-12 rule:

- Pick 12 to throw away: Find items that are broken, expired, or no longer useful.
- Pick 12 to donate: Select things you no longer need but are in good condition and could benefit someone else, like gently used clothes, books, or toys.
- Pick 12 to relocate: Find misplaced items that belong in another room and return them to their proper place.



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LIBERTY HILL SALES STATS 2025

Average Closed Price.....	\$631,945
Average Days on Market.....	18
# of Homes Sold in 2025	11
Average % Sold Price Under List Price2%

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Kyla Hammond is a top producing Realtor in South Suburban Denver. She is ranked as the #4 agent out of 800 agents at Your Castle Real Estate and ranks in the top 5% of all agents in the Denver area. She has won numerous awards for her work and provides outstanding service for her buyers and sellers. Give her a call anytime!

Kyla Is Highly Recommended!

“Our experience with Kyla Hammond was outstanding! She helped us prepare, stage and sell our home quickly. She was always professional and kind. We appreciated her availability throughout the entire process. Because of Kyla’s extensive knowledge of our area, her advice proved to be exactly right every time. We had many showings and had a contract within three days of listing. We highly recommend Kyla and are grateful that we chose her as our realtor.”
~ Mark and Jacqie, Liberty Hill, 2025



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