

The Ridge Reporter

The monthly homeowners association newsletter for the residents of Summit Ridge

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The 3 Pillars of Giving

One of the most exciting things about giving is that there are countless ways to make a difference in the world. And while there really is no wrong way to be generous, you may find that by tapping into your unique skills and creativity that you walk away with an enriched experience

Time: Time may be the most valuable resource we all have—once it's gone, it's gone. That's why it's universally understood how precious the gift of time truly is. This type of giving is providing someone else with your own time to help others. Your gift of time may be direct, hands-on service such as tutoring children at a homeless shelter or an indirect service, such as stocking shelves at a food pantry.

Talent: Whether you share your unique skills or professional expertise, you can use your own talent to give back to your community, or anywhere there is a need. Examples may include a doctor providing pro bono office hours at a local clinic or an investment advisor who manages the endowment of a charity. It's not only rewarding for philanthropists to donate their talents, but also highly valued because it provides a service or expertise that is often out of reach for the recipients.

Treasure: When many people think of generosity, they think of donating their treasure—a euphemism for money or other items with value. While cash is the most common type of charitable donation, it may also come in the form of real estate, collectibles, and more.

—<https://foundationsource.com/>

'Tis The Season For Christmas Trains in Colorado

What Christmas would be complete without hot cocoa, a trip to the North Pole, or a visit with Santa Claus?! Do all that and more aboard one of these Colorado Christmas holiday train rides.

From the Front Range to the Western Slope, there are a number of historic railroads in Colorado that offer something special for the winter holiday season. While

most tourist trains shut down over the winter, a few keep rolling on. Board these unique Christmas themed trains for an unforgettable time with your friends, family, and loved ones. Here are Colorado's best Christmas holiday train rides, in no particular order:



SANTA'S LIGHTED FOREST: Witness the snow-covered mountains in all their glory every evening aboard the Georgetown Loop Railroad for an enchanting experience. The train makes a stop at Santa's Lighted Forest where the spirit of the holidays is on display with thousands of colorful lights that cover the trees and Christmas village at the North Pole.

Passengers can meet Santa himself, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies all while watching the beautiful light show synchronized to selected Christmas carols. Passengers have a choice of the Presidential Car, Parlor Car, or the Coach Car. This train departs only from the Devil's Gate Depot in Georgetown, Colorado. Website: georgetownlooprr.com

SANTA'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE: Perfect for the entire family, hop aboard the Georgetown Loop train for a ride to the North Pole. Passengers will join up with Santa and his little helpers who help pass out presents, treats, and goodies for the children. Choose from the Presidential Car, Parlor Car, or the Coach Car – each decorated with the festivities of the season. This train departs only from the Devil's Gate Depot location in Georgetown, Colorado. Website: georgetownlooprr.com

SANTA EXPRESS TRAIN: With your pajamas on, catch a ride aboard the Santa Express Train where Santa's helpers offer hot cocoa, cookies, and candy canes and even read Christmas stories to all the passengers. Ride through the Royal Gorge for an unforgettable journey to the North Pole, which shines with all the colors and brilliance of Christmas.

Kids, get your Christmas wish list ready for Santa as he makes his way through each class of service, visiting every child aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. It offers up to four daily departures, one of which includes an early morning train ride that includes breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There are a variety of classes of service available, from the Vista Dome and first-class lunch and dinner train to the club and coach class. Website: royalgorgeroute.com

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Christmas Trains, *continued from front page*

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

Enjoy the warmth and fun of the season with a trip to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express via the Durango and Silverton Train. Experience the classic book, The Polar Express, come to life with the chefs, conductor, Billy, and of course with Santa and his elves.

Enjoy treats and a bedtime story of The Polar Express as you head to the North Pole to pick up Santa. On your return to Durango, Santa visits each car while your chefs lead all passengers in the singing of Christmas carols. Passengers can choose from three different classes of service; coach, deluxe, and first-class.

—<https://www.uncovercolorado.com/christmas-holiday-train-rides-in-colorado/>

Advertise in this Newsletter!

The deadline for advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue, except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th.

Newsletter Connections: 303-979-7499 or info@newsletterconnections.com

To find ad rates and discounts, go to NewsletterConnections.com or scan QR code.



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News Articles

The deadline for news articles is the 10th of the month before the next month's issue. All articles must be approved by the editor for publication, or as space permits.

The Summit Ridge newsletter is published monthly by the Summit Ridge homeowners association, a non-profit homeowners association. The newsletter delivery is provided by **Jim Riss of Re/Max Professionals**. No endorsement of any product or service is implied or stated by its inclusion in the newsletter. Appearance of an advertisement in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the publisher or the association of the goods or services offered therein. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and not of the Board of Directors of your association or the publisher. Neither the Board, publisher nor the authors intend to provide any professional service or opinion through this publication.

National Thank You Note Day

National Thank-You Note Day on December 26th recognizes the time-honored tradition of thanking people for their gifts, hospitality, and generosity. It is a day to get some note cards, paper, pen, envelopes, and stamps to write those special thank-yous.

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Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

You don't have to hit the slopes to have some cold, wintery fun. Check out these rinks to get your ice skating fix.

RINK AT BELMAR, LAKEWOOD

Admission (skate rental included): \$10 (\$8 for kids 12 and under; seniors and children two and under skate free) or \$6 if you bring your own skates. Park in the lot at Teller Street and West Virginia Avenue. Even in the daytime, the Rink at Belmar can get plenty of shade, so make sure you check the weather and bundle up. Extreme weather may close the rink, so check online or call ahead to make sure the rink is open as planned. Outdoor heaters and fire pits help friends or parents stay toasty.

SKATING IN THE SQUARE, ARVADA

Admission (skate rental included): \$10 (\$7 for kids 12 and under). Take the G Line to Olde Town Arvada, and you'll find a cozy little skating rink in the square on 57th Avenue, between the library and the pedestrian mall. Pick up your skates at the nearby shed and take to the (synthetic) ice.

PARKER ICE TRAIL, PARKER

Admission: \$9 (\$7 for kids 10 and under). **Skate rental:** \$4. The ice circles a center grassy area and is fenced in on both the inside and outside, offering more space for beginners to hold on as they get accustomed to the ice. Located at the edge of downtown Parker in Discovery Park (behind the library), the ice trail offers concessions, skating aids for new skaters, and a handful of fire pits and seating for spectators to keep warm.

DOWNTOWN DENVER RINK, DENVER

Admission: Free. **Skate rental:** \$11 (\$9 for kids 12 and under; fourth graders skate free). The downtown rink sits in Skyline Park, in the shadow of the Daniels & Fisher clocktower between the 16th Street Mall and 17th on Arapahoe Street. Open late on holidays and weekends, the rink offers concessions and locker storage for your belongings. Fourth graders skate free, and double-bladed skates are available in children sizes.

EVERGREEN LAKE, EVERGREEN

Admission: \$14 (children four and under skate free); \$20 with skate rental included. **Skate rental:** \$10. Winning the prize for best views while skating, Evergreen Lake is open throughout the winter as weather permits. Learn to Skate classes are available for children, and athletes can sign up for hockey and broomball online. Regulars or families can purchase 10-punch skate cards for \$120 (\$30 savings). Park at Evergreen Lake House or take the shuttle from Stagecoach Park lower parking lot on weekends and holidays.



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www.frcs.org

Denver Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Light

A stroll through the Denver Botanic Gardens is a delightful way to celebrate the holiday season. The Blossoms of Light extravaganza is a twinkling and breathtaking twist on the already beautiful gardens, especially on a December evening.

For over 30 years, lights have transformed this cultural pocket of Denver and become an annual tradition for many local families and friends. From Friday to Sunday, November 17th, 2023 to January 7th, 2024, enjoy warm drinks and holiday treats amongst the most festive lights, blossoms, and pathways in Colorado.

Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers.

—Kahlil Gibran

Stock Up For Winter

Living in a region with cold, snowy winters, taking the time now to stock up on winter gear and supplies will mean less stress when that first big storm hits.

- Check snow shovels and ice scrapers; replace as needed.
- If you use a fireplace or wood stove, order firewood.
- Pick up a bag of pet- and plant-safe ice melt.
- Restock emergency kits for car and home.
- If you use a snow blower, have it serviced and purchase fuel.
- If your home has an emergency power generator, review safety standards (the American Red Cross has helpful tips) and check that it's working properly.

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Classified ads are \$3.00/line (about 40 characters/line). Contact Newsletter Connections at **303-979-7499** or Info@NewsletterConnections.com to place an ad. To view our display ad prices, visit our website at NewsletterConnections.com. The deadline for placing a classified or display ad is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue (i.e., 15th of Sept. for Oct. issue), except the January issue, which has a deadline of December 6th. Residents placing ads to sell household items are not charged a fee.

Christmas Tree Cutting

Cutting down your own Christmas tree can be a memorable and festive experience for the whole family, but it's key to do this activity safely and legally. In Colorado, you typically need a permit to cut down a Christmas tree on public lands. Here are some spots where you can obtain a permit and some tips for doing this activity responsibly. All permits can be purchased online at recreation.gov.

1. Plan Ahead: Contact the forest service or visit their website for more information on permit availability, cutting dates, regulations, and designated cutting areas.

2. Choose the Right Tools: Bring a sharp saw for cutting and ropes or straps to secure the tree to your vehicle.
3. Select a Healthy Tree: A healthy tree will have vibrant green needles (avoid trees with brown or dry needles).
4. Dispose of the Tree Properly: Find a recycling program, chip the tree for mulch, or compost it.

– <https://www.coloradoparent.com/christmas-tree-cutting/>



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