



## **Ideas for Celebrating the Holiday Season Safely**

With the holiday's approaching, it is natural to want to engage in holiday traditions and gather with others in the university community. However, with the escalation of the COVID-19 virus, traditional potlucks and celebratory events are no longer a safe way to celebrate. In place of these gatherings, here are some ways for teams across the university to safely celebrate the holidays.

### **VIRTUAL POTLUCK**

Schedule a virtual lunch with team members and share a holiday meal together. Even though we are preparing our own meals, we can come together, enjoy some shared holiday music, and spend special time together as a team. Use this time to enjoy some conversation. Topics could include sharing what they are thankful for and sharing their favorite holiday recipes or family traditions.

### **VIRTUAL TEAM GAMES**

How about throwing in some virtual games? Here are a few popular ideas:

#### **Virtual bingo**

Virtual bingo can be played using Thanksgiving or Christmas-themed bingo templates. There are a couple of sample templates below. This is a clever way to share holiday stories and enjoy fun competition. Multiple templates can be found for no cost online at [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) and [teambuilding.com](https://www.teambuilding.com).

#### **Virtual scavenger hunt**

During a virtual potluck, you can establish separate teams and allow team members to participate in a virtual scavenger hunt (this would likely need to be conducted via breakout sessions on Microsoft Teams). Have team members go through their immediate area to search for a list of items and see which team can find the items first. See example below.

#### **Virtual trivia**

During a virtual potluck, have team members participate in virtual trivia game. This can be done with two teams and could feature Thanksgiving, Christmas, or a variety of themed trivia questions. Organize it family feud-style, allowing each members of the teams to answer questions. See example below.

### **COMPETITION**

Who doesn't love a little competition? It's all in good fun and makes for a lot of laughs.

#### **Virtual Ugly Mask, Ugly Sweater Competition**

Compete for the title of 2020 Ugliest Mask or Ugliest Sweater Competition. While this is typically an in person holiday party event, it is just as fun virtually! Invite some guest judges and get creative. Put a twist on it and have best holiday themed Zoom background.

### **Virtual “Turkey Trot”**

For those of us who want to get up and move a bit, work together with the team to schedule a time to participate in a virtual turkey trot. These events are typically a 5k, but walking/running a mile would be a great alternative. Set a goal with your team for the distance. Each team member will go for their trot and can record their time. There are multiple free apps available to keep track of the times submitted and will have a ranking for different categories. As a fun reward, departments could print certificates for the top three finishers in each category.

## **PARTICIPATE IN AN ACT OF KINDNESS**

### **Care packages**

Engage in sending joy this season by putting together care packages. There are even charities and businesses that will send care packages to deployed troops. Most of these are free and allow personal messages. Some options are Crown Royal, Starkist Tuna, and Operation Gratitude.

## **SPREAD POSITIVITY**

### **Create your own team Gratitude channel on Microsoft Teams**

Departments can create separate channel in Microsoft Teams in order to share what team members are grateful for and participate in sharing with one another. This is a great way to share some positivity and to get to know others on a more personal level.

# ONLINE HOLIDAY BINGO

Singing Christmas Carol 	Has yet to finish Xmas shopping	Christmas is favorite holiday	Snoops for presents	Loves holiday movies
Celebrating Xmas in a warm place	Has taken a sleighride	Won a snowball fight	Has New Year's Eve plans	Built a gingerbread house
Celebrates Kwanzaa	Will celebrate more than one Xmas		Skis or snowboards	Already sick of Xmas carols
Making a New Year's resolution	Once knocked over an Xmas tree	Has dressed up like Santa	Celebrates Hanukkah	Put pets on Xmas photo
Baked cookies	Has celebrated Xmas in a foreign country	Counts "Die Hard" as an Xmas movie	Likes eggnog 	Traveling for Christmas



**MUSEUMHACK**

# Virtual Thanksgiving Bingo



Can name all 3 Pilgrim ships	Plays football	Has an unusual Thanksgiving tradition	Has a turkey disaster story	Vegetarian
Loves cranberry sauce	Has celebrated Thanksgiving in another country	Can name 5 things grateful for	Makes a mean green bean casserole	Eats mac and cheese on Thanksgiving
Has worked retail on Black Friday	Thanksgiving is favorite holiday		Has seen a turkey in real life	Watched the Macy's T-day parade in person
Willing to share pie recipe	Has attended a Friendsgiving	Loves leftovers	Dines out for Thanksgiving	Can name 5 Native American tribes
Watches football	Can gobble like a turkey	Celebrates Canadian Thanksgiving	Hates cranberry sauce	Goes Black Friday shopping



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# thanksgiving

## scavenger hunt

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a turkey         | <input type="checkbox"/> gravy bowl                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fall decoration  | <input type="checkbox"/> dinner rolls               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a rake           | <input type="checkbox"/> football                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acorn            | <input type="checkbox"/> black bird                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a pine cone      | <input type="checkbox"/> scarecrow                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chimney smoke    | <input type="checkbox"/> pie                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a squirrel       | <input type="checkbox"/> feathers                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a pumpkin        | <input type="checkbox"/> twigs                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a pumpkin pie    | <input type="checkbox"/> berries                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> red leaf         | <input type="checkbox"/> wishbone                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> yellow leaf      | <input type="checkbox"/> pilgrims                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brown leaf       | <input type="checkbox"/> a bare tree                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a pile of leaves | <input type="checkbox"/> early Christmas decoration |

