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How To Have A Successful Homemade Christmas

By Ben O'Rourke

Christmas is nearly upon us and I assume that you have everything organised and you are relaxing and waiting for the special day. Yeah right, me too. Food plays a huge part in the Holiday Seasons activities. The main Christmas Day meal and desserts are the highlight and you might find yourself worrying about how you are going to make it special this time around. The fact is that it can be a very stressful time, and if you don't get it organised right you will not be able to relax and enjoy the day itself.

Now is the time to start planning exactly what you are going to do. Sit down and make out a list of what you would like to have for the meal. Just write out the different types of food items that come to mind. Don't try to make your menu exact, include whatever comes to mind initially. Then over the coming days you will revise and adjust your list until you have the core idea about what you want to do. In this way new and different ideas will spring to mind as you look at your initial list and the food groups on it, and a basic plan will form in your mind.

Now is also the time to involve other members of the family. Maybe someone would love to take on the task of preparing the desserts for you. Everyone loves desserts and lots of ideas could spring up while looking at the items on your list. Possibly someone would like the idea of preparing something really exotic and would relish the challenge. There are literally hundreds of dessert dishes from pies to fruit and everything in between. Check out the Internet for recipes and ideas. The same applies for starters such as soups or prawn cocktails. Involving other members of the family at this early stage will get the ideas rolling, and maybe even result in different dishes for everyone if they are willing to have a go themselves.

Think about how you will organise your kitchen area also. See in your mind's eye where you will prepare your raw ingredients and what you will use to store them in. Be as specific as you can when you do this. It can be a great time saver and take away a lot of stress on the day. You will not be caught by surprise when you suddenly find you actually needed another pot for instance or another roasting dish. Make a list now of all the stuff you could prepare in advance the previous day. Make sure you will have enough room to store items in your fridge overnight by careful planning. Stuffing and dressings can be prepared in advance too, so do not underestimate the advantages of writing out your

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list and then ordering it logically. Leave it all until the day itself and you will be inviting a lot to go wrong, and I am sure you can remember previous holidays all too vividly.

It is also a good idea to plan and write out your seating arrangements, and where you will store dishes and utensils as they come back from the table. If elderly persons are present you may want to sit them nearer to the kitchen so that you can easily serve them first. No more trying to negotiate around the kids who are sitting on the wrong side of the table for instance. All these little tips add up to taking away a lot of the stress that can be experienced. The trick is to write everything down and do not trust to chance. When you know you are prepared and organised, you will really look forward to the occasion as will any others who opted to give you a hand and know exactly what they have to do. Start now and enjoy the experience.

Take the Stress Out Of Christmas With Your FREE Recipes For Food And Drinks.

<http://christmas-web-site.com>

Celebrate With Christmas Decorations

By Rachael Cleipher

Christmas is without a doubt one of the most cherished and celebrated times of the year. Most people love to anticipate the coming of Christmastime because of all the great things that Christmas means to them. One of the best ways to anticipate, celebrate, and make the most of the holidays is the use of Christmas decorations.

There is nothing lovelier than entering a house at Christmastime that is filled with beautiful Christmas decorations that reflect the love of the family and the values of the season. Nothing is more special than seeing a family Christmas tree filled with homemade ornaments a strings of popcorn that the children have spent hours making. Christmas decorations can transform even the most bland house into a warm and life-filled house during the holidays and that is why I love Christmas decorations so much.

Spending a Saturday putting up Christmas decorations can be a great way for a family to spend time together and build lasting family traditions at the same time. Children will learn to enjoy the work that goes into making their home beautiful during the holidays if they are included in putting up the Christmas decorations. Spend time teaching your kids the importance of Christmas and the different things that your Christmas decorations symbolize for your family. Use the hours of decorating to teach important faith and life lessons. Once you have worked hard at putting up Christmas decorations all day, spend the evening watching old Christmas films and eating pizzas.

Do you have any memories of making your childhood home beautiful with Christmas decorations? When I grew up, there was a rule in our home that we couldn't pick out a tree or put up any Christmas decorations unless everyone in the family was home. Even after my older siblings went to college we continued this special tradition. It has been fun to pass down a similar tradition to my own family.

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My children love to anticipate the day that we will go to the tree farm as a family and cut down the perfect tree. They love to help get the boxes of Christmas decorations out of the basement. And they especially love to sort through the Christmas tree ornaments and choose the ones they want to place on the limbs of our tree.

Before the next holiday season rolls around consider ways that you and your family can celebrate by making new traditions or reviving old ones as you beautify your home with Christmas decorations.

Rachael Cleipher has become an expert in decorating homes for Christmas. See

<http://www.allchristmasdecorations.info>

for more about making your house beautiful with Christmas

decorations this holiday season.



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