

# CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

## CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS AT WORK



Holidays in the workplace aren't always easy. With growing awareness and need for cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace, it can be difficult to know how to best approach our differences. Trying to please everyone as an individual is bound to fail. So rather than focus on differences, we can concentrate on what all holidays share: celebration.

Regardless of what you celebrate, how you celebrate, or who you celebrate with, there is something magical about the winter holiday season. It inspires us to extend a helping hand, reach out to family, and set new goals as we prepare to end another year.

Sharing in the spirit of the season can create a sense of "kinship" that can bond you, not only to family and friends, but also to your co-workers. The holidays are a great opportunity to bring the workplace together and celebrate!

## Ways to Celebrate the Holidays at Work

### Decorate to Celebrate

If your team is back onsite, decorate common areas with neutral winter-themed décor like snowflakes, sparkles, garland, and lights. Deck your office, cubicle, or personal space to represent your own values. Use an office tour as an opportunity to expand your knowledge and initiate conversation with co-workers about their traditions and customs.

### Festive Dish Sharing

An office potluck may or may not be possible this year. Although, food is always a great way to celebrate the holidays and diversity. Share traditions by contributing a festive dish recipe, create a workplace cookbook, or plan a virtual food demonstration highlighting the many cultural foods and traditions. Those who don't celebrate any special events may contribute by recognizing the beauty of winter!

### Good Deeds and Community Spirit

Incorporating good deeds or community projects into holiday celebrations allows your workplace to share a common goal regardless of religious or cultural beliefs. Give back in a meaningful way: take part in a food or clothing drive, organize a silent auction to help a family in need, or collect small toiletries to hand out to the homeless. Whatever you choose, sharing positive feelings is a great way to build workplace relationships, create a sense of community, and share the magic of the season with those who are struggling.

### Host a Fun Family-Friendly Winter Event

Sometimes, no matter what you do, the holidays can feel awkward and a bit messy. Change it up! Suggest an evening of ice skating and a hot chocolate bar, a pyjama and board game party, or a cookie decorating contest. When you can share your family with co-workers, you're building community and support, and an appreciation for your workplace.