

Friday, December 1st, 2023 8:30AM - 1:30PM

Take time to do what makes your soul happy and kick off the holiday season with all the smiles and laughter of young ones anxiously anticipating the Christmas season. Come learn about traditions young and old, from near and far, and celebrate activities that will be sure to make everyone feel like they BELONG.

A special Sing-along of Christmas cheer with Santa and Friends @ the Fountain Park Stage will be held for approx 20 min at 8:30am, 10:30am and 1:00pm! Children will sign-a-long, but it won't be a time to talk one-on-one with Santa.

Make a stop at any of our 12 different locations to learn how you can spread Christmas cheer from 8:45am-1:30pm around Old Town Rock Hill (Main Street).

Groups, please bring a bag and a sharpie to collect your group's items and ensure they go to whom they BELONG. If you wish, bring a sheet, or blanket, to sit on the lawn as we sing with Santa and friends! See the list of things to do before coming to the festival below to prepare for this special day.

Prepare before you go

1. Gnomes on the Roam - See Stop #13

Print, or save on your phone, a copy of the clues online to help find the missing gnomes from Santa's Workshop.

2. Grow the Grinch's Heart - See Stop #5

Help grow the Grinch's heart by decorating rocks prior to the festival with beautiful pictures or words of affirmation that you will present to the Grinch at his house to help show him ways to spread joy to others and show him we all belong!

3. Magic at the Fair - See Stop #2

This FREE event is for <u>RESERVATIONS ONLY</u> for preschool classes, first come first served. You will reserve a 20 minute time slot for your group of students. You will be required to show your sign up genius reservation to a volunteer before entry. Please note that all reservation spots are for a maximum of 20 students.

4. Sing-a-long with Santa - Fountain Park Stage - Stop #1

Bring a blanket and plan your time to enjoy songs (about 20 minutes) with Santa at one of the following times: 8:30am, 10:30am, 1:00pm. This is not a time for kids to have contact directly with him, please keep them off the stage.

5. Winter Wonderland Windows- Downtown Rock Hill

View the beautifully decorated windows online and vote electronically for your class's favorite (1 per classroom) online. At the festival, take a picture with your group in front of your favorite window and post it on social media!

ChristmasVille "Young at Heart" Stops

See the map for guidance

Stop 1 - Christmas Librarian Lessons

Description: Grab a seat on the lawn and enjoy some favorite Christmas books from our Rock Hill Schools librarians. Receive a free blessing from community sponsors while supplies last! Post your pictures with the librarian! #RockSolid Reading times will be between Santa's 1st and 2nd Sing-a-longs (8:45-10:30).

Stop 2 - Magic at the Fair - **<u>RESERVATIONS ONLY</u>** FOR GROUPS with 4+ kids

Description: An old saying is that life is like a carousel. Sometimes you're up and sometimes you're down and sometimes you just go round and round. Just remember to enjoy the ride! This FREE event with festival rides and inflatables is for RESERVATIONS ONLY in 20 min sessions to limit the numbers in this area. Sorry, first come first serve.

Stop 3 - Spreading Joy For All To See

Description: Chalk the Walk with your Christmas wishes for 2023.

Stop 4 - Tinsel Tree Tradition

Description: Continue your walk down memory lane as we learn how to "trim the tree" with one piece of tinsel at a time! Roll the oversized dice to determine how many pieces of tinsel you need to use.

Stop 5 - Grow the Grinch's Heart

Description: Join us at the Grinch's House and engage in a STEM project where we see how pouring kindness into others helps grow our own hearts. We all know Mr.Grinch needs these reminders, so as a group leave your group's mark by placing the words of affirmation rocks by his house. Don't worry if you didn't bring a rock, you can share your words of affirmation, joy, and belonging with Mr. Grinch by adding your ideas to the blanket. SPECIAL ACTIVITY- After the festival you can visit Rock Hill's Miracle Park to see all the motivational rocks created by everyone in our community.

Stop 6 - A Piece of the Magic

Description: Belong to a community project where you will use your fine motor skills to help begin the community project of painting wreaths. After the festival, local students will decorate your wreaths to form beautiful displays that will be given to our beloved members of our community nursing homes.

Stop 7 -Thank a Solider Near or Far

Description: We love our soldiers near and far and celebrate the sacrifices they make for all. Decorate a card to spread your Christmas cheer.

Stop 8 - Clear the Road for Santa's Sleigh

Description: Get into lines and help shovel the snow back into the bins. Which group will win?

Stop 9 - Tribal Traditions

Description: Join the Catawba Nation and learn about their traditions.

Stop 10 - A Santa Check-In: Where are you on the list?

Description: Visit our friends at Comporium and Mrs. Claus! Are you on the naughty or nice list? Sign the book and let us know!

Stop 11 - Stocking Match for Dun Che Lao Ren

Description: A Chinese Tradition is to hang stockings on Christmas Eve for Dun Che Lao Ren to fill with treats. Get into lines and race to see who can match all the stockings first.

Stop 12 - Treats for Pere Noel

Description: A French Christmas tradition is to leave your shoes filled with carrots and fruits for Pere Noel's animals. Get into lines and race to see who can fill the shoes the fastest!

Stop 13 - Gnomes on the Roam

Description- Grant the Gnome needs your help. Five of the Christmas gnomes have gone missing that belong to Santa's Workshop. Access the clues online and print them out to help you find them all! At this stop you can visit Grant the Gnome and receive some love from him, make sure to grab a photo!

Want to pack in even more fun?

Reading & Rhymes with Mother Goose will be on Friday, Dec 1, at 9:15, 10:15, and 5:15. You can register for this activity planned by the York County Library Main online or call (803) 981-5888, starting November 17. Groups and daycares, please call (803) 981-5888 to register.