

Christmas in July 2023



While the summer sun is out and about bringing tans, swimming, and cook-outs to the Rockford Area, we at the CVB are already looking ahead to the holidays- and so are businesses and events in the area. That's right, it's time for Christmas in July! Keep reading to find all of the upcoming events bringing holiday cheer to the area, as well as tips on throwing the perfect Christmas in July Party.

Bristle & Timber

6140 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL. 61111

Tuesday, July 25

6-8:30 p.m.

Christmas trivia, prizes, cocktails, music, and free mini projects oh my! All of this will be offered at Bristle & Timber on July 25 at their Christmas in July Workshop. Have fun bringing holiday fun to the summertime with this festive wood-painting workshop. Registration is open so don't forget to reserve your spot for some holly jolly in July.

[Bristle Christmas in July Workshop](#)



Marine Toys for Tots

9572 Forest Hills Rd. Loves Park, IL. 61111

Saturday July 29

5-8 p.m.

Head down to the track to support Toys for Tots in their Christmas in July toy drive. Marine Toys for Tots distributed over 14,000 toys in the Rockford region in 2022 and continues to grow. They strive to keep the holiday spirit alive all year round so every day feels like Christmas to young children in need.

[Toys for Tots](#)

Tips and Tricks for a Christmas in July Party

If you want to bring the holidays home this summer, here are some tips and tricks for the perfect DIY festive theme.

Snacks



Veggie Wreath

Grab some cucumbers, broccoli, cherry tomatoes, and a bowl of ranch and tie it up with a bow! This makes a refreshing summer veggie platter that doubles as a Christmas wreath lookalike.



Snowmen Sugar Cookies

Snowmen can't beat the summer heat with this adorable cookie design. Just mix up your favorite sugar cookie recipe and white frosting, place a marshmallow on top, and add eyes, a carrot nose, and maybe a hat or scarf with colored icing or edible marker. This creates a snowman melting into a delicious cookie cascade.



Watermelon Trees

Another summertime snack that can be made festive is watermelon. If you have a Christmas tree shaped cookie cutter, then you can transform watermelon slices into red trees reminiscent of the holiday season.

Décor



Elf on the Shelf Summer Vacation

Keep the Elf on the Shelf tradition going by incorporating them into your Christmas in July theme. Add mini floaties, sunglasses, or toy surfboards to your elves and have them throw a mini poolside party in your sink or bathtub for some summertime shenanigans.



Umbrella Tree

Combine summer and winter aesthetics with this easy DIY decoration. Gather some drink umbrellas and a cardboard tree base and layer until you have this crafty colorful tree. Top with a seashell star and you have a perfect summer décor that ties into the holidays.



Beach Tree

If you have a reusable tree and want to use it more than just at Christmastime, here is how you can adapt it to the warm weather. Decorate with cutouts of flip flops, sunglasses, sand buckets, and flowers and you have the perfect summer variation of a Christmas tree.

Activities



Summer Snowball Fight

Get some white water balloons and beat the heat with a summer substitution for a snowball fight. This activity is perfect for a Christmas in July party and would be fun for all ages.



Summer Ornaments

Another activity for any age is to make DIY tree ornaments. You can fill plastic or glass containers with sand from a beach, make a salt dough ornament in the shape of seashells, paint bulbs to look like beach balls, or turn a rubber ducky into a hanging decoration. This is a great way to save your summer fun and bring it back to add warmth to the cold winter season.



Reindeer Sack Race

Another fun activity is a reindeer themed sack race. Decorate pillowcases with classic reindeer names and give racers antler headbands to compete for the title of fastest flyer. This is a great way to enjoy the warm weather while staying festive.

Movies and Music

If you are throwing a Christmas in July party, make sure to add something for guests to listen to while enjoying activities and snacks! Consider finding or curating a playlist of holiday hits or playing a Christmas flick in the background to add that extra ounce of holiday spirit to your event. These details will make your party pop and bring the holidays to the summer.

Get Excited for Stroll on State

Christmas will be closer than you think, and the best way to kick off the holiday season is to attend the best Christmas festival in the Midwest, Rockford's original, Stroll on State! Stroll on State 2023 will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving on November 25.