

# *Christmas Eve Scavenger Hunt*

## *12-Hour Edition (Beginner)*

### **Your Elf on a Shelf has just stolen Christmas!**

The family wakes up on Christmas Eve to a ransom letter/email/voicemail from your Elf on a Shelf, along with a photograph of all of their presents, which s/he has hidden (optional).

The children must bring back Christmas cheer to get their presents back.

#### ***What parents need to do in preparation for the 12-hours version:***

Hide presents in the trunk of the car or another safe place, except one small box for each kid under the bare Christmas tree, that contains a key and a clue. Or bury boxes outside (works in some climates) and leave a clue to find them under the bare Christmas tree.

Use invisible ink to hide part of a treasure hunt map with clues.. Or get a blank puzzle, write clues on it, and have them collect the pieces and then put them together. There are plenty of options for you to get creative with.

Have the kids complete certain tasks to restore Christmas cheer (clues lead you to the tasks). There are 12 tasks – one for approximately each hour to be completed all day on Christmas Eve.

### ***Tasks for 12-hours:***

1. Write a Christmas email and send to a family member or friend
2. Fill a small box of donations (per kid) of toys they no longer want/use/need
3. Make an ornament for the tree (each kid)
4. Listen/Dance to Christmas songs as a family
5. Make hot cocoa and watch a Christmas movie together
6. Make a gift for someone special
7. Hug a family member or FaceTime with one
8. Read *Twas the Night Before Christmas*
9. Make and decorate cookies for Santa
10. Put out carrots for reindeer
11. Make dinner as a family or go out eat
12. Go to Mass/Church. Or drive around to see the pretty decorations in your neighborhood or visit a nearby family member

Following the last task, take the kids out of the house and have a neighbor or family member put all of the presents back under the tree for a Christmas miracle!

***Impress upon the kids that part of Christmas is spending quality time with friends and family doing great things for other people, and that's how they restored Christmas cheer and got back on the nice list. After all, isn't that the true meaning of Christmas?***

***Merry Christmas!***