

# Santa in Chicago

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## Advertise with Santa in Chicago

To place an ad with Santa in Chicago.com go [here](#).

## Get a story read by Santa and Mrs. Claus

That's right Santa and Mrs. Claus are great story tellers. Find out where to go [here](#).



## Santa Visits with Special Needs Children in Chicagoland and Northern Illinois

When you talk about children with special needs you'll find that covers a wide range of disabilities that can be mental, physical and so much more. Special needs children have many disorders to deal with. They can include such things as epilepsy, autism, blind and vision impairment, deafness and hearing loss, down syndrome, spina bifida, mitochondrial disorders, ADD/ADHD, and numerous other conditions little ones have to endure.

Kids with special needs not only require lots of physical care but also lots of love. It's really difficult for parents of these children to have to stand in line and wait to see Santa Claus, so "special events" really fill a need. They serve every child, from those who may be mildly retarded to others with severe physical and mental disabilities. which is why these events give special meaning to Christmas and the Holiday Season.

While many malls don't have specific Santa events planned for special needs children, if you call the mall management office normally you can make arrangements with them for visits for children or groups of children.

**(Days and Hours for all events listed below are subject to change)**



Photo courtesy Special Kids Holiday Event

## MORE SANTA EVENTS

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## Check out Santa Events in Chicago Area Cities and Towns

Find all the different places you can take the kids to see Santa. [Find Places](#)



## Aurora

### **Santa on the Blackberry Farm Holiday Express on Special Needs Night Friday December 1st, 2017**

Sponsor: Fox Valley Park District

Train is located at: Blackberry Farm

100 S. Barnes Road

Aurora, IL 60506

(630) 892-1550 for additional information

Times: Friday Dec. 1st, 5pm to 8pm

tickets online beginning mid-Nov. - avoid lines at the ticket window

[www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org](http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org)

**Cost:** \$5.00 admission

Blackberry Farm is having a Special Need Night just for children with special needs. The farm will be all lit up for the season with thousands upon thousands of twinkling lights. Families and the special needs children can ride on the "Blackberry Farm Holiday Express." Enjoy a great trip on the train which chugs its way around Lake Gregory before returning to the old-fashioned depot where you will meet Santa at the Early Streets Museum.

### **Santa at the Special Needs Holiday Celebration for the Autism Family Foundation Saturday, December 22nd, 2018**

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Sponsor: Autism Family Foundation

Event at: Stonebridge Country Club

2705 Stonebridge Blvd Aurora, IL 60502

On-line registration begins Oct. 15th - click on this [link](#) for additional information.

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT**

[www.autismfamilyfoundation.net](http://www.autismfamilyfoundation.net)

(630) 803-8471

This is a special event for special needs children and their siblings to visit with Santa Claus, enjoy refreshments, make crafts and celebrate the holiday season. The first 100 local special needs children—including siblings that RSVP will receive a confirmation that they have a reserved spot for this event which is held on a Saturday in December every year.

## Berwyn

### **Santa on the Polar Express Storytime Train for Families with Children who have Special Needs Saturday, December 9th, 2017**

Time: 12:45pm to 3:15pm (Train departs at 12:55pm)

Trips departs: Berwyn Metra Train Station

6801 Windsor Avenue

Oak Park Avenue & Windsor

Berwyn, IL 60402

between Grove and Oak Park Avenues

Sponsor: WSSRA - West Suburban Special Recreation Association

(847) 455-2100

[www.wssra.net](http://www.wssra.net)

Pre-registration required - tickets are limited

**Cost:** \$15 - 11 years & older; \$8 - 10 years and younger

This train trip is only for families of children who have disabilities and are members of West Suburban Special Recreation Association. Children take a real train ride, but make an imaginary trip to the North Pole (actually the Aurora train station). The delightful Polar Express story is used as the basis for the trip and will be read. Santa will join everyone at the North Pole and will be part of the joyful ride home. Light refreshments will be served and wheelchair seating is available. **This popular trip**

fills up quickly.

## Calumet City

### Sensitive Santa at River Oaks Center Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Sponsor: River Oaks Center

River Oaks Center Drive

Calumet City, IL 60409

(708) 868-5574

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT**

Sensitive Santa, held on the first Sunday in December is an opportunity for children with special needs and their families to enjoy a photo session with Santa. Extra care has been taken to support the sensory, physical and other developmental needs of children so they can enjoy this wonderful holiday tradition. While the event is free, there is a charge for photo packages.

## Elmhurst

### Santa at Special Kids Holiday Event Wednesday, December 5th, 2018

Time: 3:30 pm - 8 pm

Sponsor: Special Kids Day Events

Event at: Wilder Mansion

211 Prospect Avenue

Elmhurst, IL 60126

[www.skd.org](http://www.skd.org)

Reservations are not required - for additional information

[email rich@specialkidsday.org](mailto:rich@specialkidsday.org)

(630) 530-7700

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT**

Every year since 1990, on the first Wednesday in December over six hundred and fifty special needs children, with physical and developmental disabilities, and their families are treated to a delightful afternoon and evening where they get to bond with Santa Claus. The children have their picture taken, enjoy cookies and activities. There is a quiet room, a craft to make and take home, music, plenty of handicapped parking and trained volunteers to help everyone to enjoy all the festivities. This event has been growing in size and popularity every year. Santa at the Special Kids Holiday Event is a **TOP 10 SANTA EVENT IN CHICAGOLAND AND NORTHERN ILLINOIS.**



Photo courtesy Special Kids Holiday Event

## Gurnee Mills

### Caring Santa at Gurnee Mills Mall Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Sponsor: Gurnee Mills Mall

6170 Grand Avenue

Gurnee, IL 60031

(847) 263-7500

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT**

Caring Santa, held on the first Sunday in December, provides a subdued and welcoming environment at Gurnee Mills for children with special needs and their families to visit Santa. While the event is free, there is a charge for photo packages.



Graphic courtesy Simon Malls

## Naperville

### Santa at Special Needs Nights at Riverwalk in Naperville Tuesday, December 5th through Thursday, December 7th, 2017

Time: 5 pm - 8 pm

Sponsor: Naperville Park District

Santa House location

Jackson Ave. & Webster St.

Naperville IL 60540

(along the Riverwalk)

[www.napervilleparks.org](http://www.napervilleparks.org)

Advance reservations must be made: (630) 848-5000

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT**

One of the most important events at the Riverwalk Santa House is the Special Needs Nights. This is three evenings set aside for children with special needs and their families where they can visit Santa by appointment, so that there is no long wait. Santa and his helpers go all out to make this a special time for the children and their families. Space is limited and this event is very popular. **Days and hours for the Special Needs Nights are subject to change.**



Santa Claus at the Riverwalk in Naperville Photo courtesy Naperville Park District

## Orland Park

### Caring Santa at Gurnee Orland Square Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

Time: 8:30am - 9:30am

Sponsor: Orland Square Mall

Orland Square Drive

Orland Parke, IL 6462

(708) 349-1646

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT**

Caring Santa, held on the first Sunday in December, provides a subdued and welcoming environment at Gurnee Mills for children with special needs and their families to visit Santa. While the event is free, there is a charge for photo packages.

## Schaumburg

### Caring Santa at Woodfield Mall Sunday, November 19th & December 3rd, 2017

Time: 8am -10am

Sponsor: Woodfield Mall

Event at: the multi-sensory Ice Palace

Woodfield Mall

Golf Road at Route 53

Schaumburg, IL 60173

(847) 330-1537

(Dates and times subject to change - check with Woodfield Mall)

**Cost: FREE SANTA EVENT** - photo packages available for purchase

Tickets required for this event - [Click here](#) for free tickets

Sometimes, the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season isn't the best thing for special-needs children. Woodfield Mall has set aside a special time and days for families with special needs who want to have a more calm encounter & visit with Santa. While the event is free, there is a charge for photo packages.



Graphic courtesy Simon Malls

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