



# *Sweet Blackberry*

## Holiday Entertainment Guide

2020





# Holiday Recipes



**Rice Krispie Trees**  
(Cooking Classy)



**Holiday Popcorn**  
(Lil' Luna)



**Holiday Lights Cookies**  
(Fireflies + Mudpies)



**Snowman Grahams**  
(Frugal Coupon Living)



**Santa Hat Brownies**  
(Daisy's World)



**Chocolate Reindeer Cookies**  
(Taste of Home)

## Rice Krispy Trees 🌲



### Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons of salted butter
- 1 package of mini marshmallows
- Green gel food coloring
- 6 cups of Rice Krispies cereal
- White decorating icing
- Reese's peanut butter cups
- Round red sprinkles
- Star sprinkles or yellow mini M&Ms

1. Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-low heat
2. Add in marshmallows and stir until melted
3. Add in green food coloring; tint to desired shade
4. Remove saucepan from heat; add in Rice Krispies cereal and fold mixture until evenly coated; let cool about 5 minutes
5. Spray hands with non-stick cooking spray and shape about 1/3 cup to 1/2 cup of the mixture into cones, while pressing firmly so they hold together
6. Decorate with sprinkles, using the icing to get them to stick; put icing on the Reese's and place one under each tree as pictures above

## Holiday Popcorn



### Ingredients

- 1-2 bags of plain popcorn
- 24oz of vanilla bark or candy coating
- 1-2 cups plain Christmas M&Ms
- 2-3 crushed candy canes
- Red candy coating
- Green candy coating

1. Pop popcorn; when done, pour into bowl making sure no kernels are in the bowl
2. Break candy coating into squares and place in a pan on low heat; stir until melted
3. Pour vanilla candy coating over popcorn and mix until all popcorn is coated
4. Spread mixture onto cookie sheet lined with parchment paper
5. Add M&Ms and red and green candy coating; refrigerate for ½ and hour before serving

## Holiday Light Cookies



### Ingredients

2 cups of sugar  
2/3 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1/2 cup shortening  
3 teaspoons vanilla extract  
2 eggs  
5 1/3 cups of flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 1/3 cups sour cream  
3 cups powdered sugar  
1 stick of unsalted butter, softened  
2 tablespoons milk  
Black food coloring  
Mini M&Ms (10.8 oz bag)

1. Cream butter, shortening, sugar, 2 tsps of vanilla extract and 2 eggs in a large bowl; mix in the flour, baking soda, baking powder, sour cream and salt
2. Chill bowl until dough is firm
3. Roll dough onto well-floured surface, then cut it into circles with a cookie cutter; place the cut outs on a oiled cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 8-9 minutes
4. While cookies are cooling, prepare frosting by mixing 1 stick of unsalted butter with 3 cups of powdered sugar, 1 tsp of vanilla extract and 2 tbs of milk
5. Divide frosting into 2 small bowls; stir black food coloring into 1 bowl and leave second bowl uncolored
6. Spoon black frosting into a Ziploc bag with corner cut or bag fitted with #1 tip
7. Use a round, flat knife to spread white frosting onto each cookie
8. Pipe black frosting along the outside, creating loops and curves to emulate tangles holiday lights
9. Press mini M&Ms into black frosting to create a complete strand of lights

## Snowman Grahams



### Ingredients

Graham crackers  
Regular marshmallows  
Jet puffed mallow bits  
Wilton sparkle gel: red, green, and  
black  
Wilton orange candy melts

1. Begin by cutting your marshmallows in half so that you have two circles for every marshmallow.
2. Place three marshmallow halves onto each graham cracker like pictured.
3. Now cut the sides off your orange candy melts to make a small triangle from each one.
4. Use the sparkle gel as glue to glue it onto the center of the top marshmallow.
5. Now with your black sparkle gel, paint on the snowman's eyes, mouth, buttons, and arms.
6. Again using the sparkle gel as glue, glue your marshmallow bits on the graham cracker, around the snowman to look like snow.
7. To finish your snowman, paint on a scarf with your green sparkle gel, and use the red sparkle gel to make polka dots onto the scarf.
8. Your snowman are complete! And your kids are sure to have fun making these!

## Santa Hat Brownies 🧑🏻‍🎄



### Ingredients

1 pan of your favorite brownies, cooled and cut into desired size and shape (round cutter suggested)  
12-16 small strawberries, cleaned and hulled  
vanilla-mascarpone buttercream

### *Vanilla-Mascarpone Buttercream*

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature  
8 ounces mascarpone cheese, room temperature  
2-1/2 to 3 cups powdered sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
pinch of salt

### Instructions for Vanilla-Mascarpone Buttercream:

1. Using a stand mixer with a paddle attachment, beat butter and mascarpone cheese until light and creamy, about 2 minutes.
2. Add vanilla extract and salt.
3. Add 2-1/2 cups of sugar, half a cup at a time and continue beating until smooth.
4. Add more sugar, if needed to reach desired consistency and sweetness.

### Instructions for Brownie Assembly:

1. Pipe a ring of vanilla buttercream on top of each brownie.
2. Cut off the base of a strawberry so it is flat and place it upside down on each brownie, pushing slightly to secure in place.
3. Top the tip of the strawberry with a dot of buttercream to finish the Santa hat.

## Chocolate Reindeer Cookies 🍪



### Ingredients

2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1-1/4 teaspoons baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup butter, cubed  
1-1/2 cups packed brown sugar  
2 tablespoons water  
2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips  
2 large eggs  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1 can (16 ounces) chocolate frosting

### *Decorations:*

Candy eyes  
Reese's mini white peanut butter cups  
Miniature pretzels  
Peanut butter M&M's

1. Whisk together flour, baking soda and salt. Place butter, brown sugar and water in a large saucepan; cook and stir over low heat until butter is melted. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate chips until smooth. Stir in eggs and extract. Stir in flour mixture. Let stand until firm enough to shape, about 15 minutes.
2. To freeze dough, shape level tablespoonfuls of dough into balls; flatten each to 1/4-in. thickness. Place in a covered container, separating layers with waxed paper; freeze until firm. (May be frozen up to 3 months.)
3. To bake, preheat oven to 350°. Place frozen dough portions 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Bake until set, 12-14 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks; cool completely.
4. Spread cookies with frosting, reserving a small amount for mouths. Decorate faces with candy eyes; add peanut butter cups for snouts, pretzels for antlers and M&M's for noses. Pipe mouths with reserved frosting.



# DIY Activities



**Reindeer Sock Puppets**  
(Kids Craft Room)



**Snowmen Tin Bowling Pins**  
(Goodto Know)



**Felt Christmas Tree**  
(That's What Che Said)



**Sock Snowman**  
(Easy, Peasy and Fun)



**Christmas Slime**  
(The Best Ideas for Kids)



**Cinnamon Pinecones**  
(Modern Parents Messy Kids)

## Reindeer No-Sew Sock Puppets



### Supplies Needed

Old Socks  
Pipe Cleaners  
Glue Gun  
Buttons  
Pom Poms  
Googly Eyes  
Burlap  
Scissors

1. Cut two tiny holes in the fabric about 3 cm apart. Take one pipe cleaner bent in a 'U' shape inserting in one hole and out the other; Twist in additional pipe cleaners to form antler's prongs
2. Cut burlap into two ear shapes; glue the flat end and pinch them together to make a more realistic ear shape
3. Add button eyes and pom pom nose

## Snowmen Tin Bowling Pins



### Supplies Needed

6 empty tin cans  
Masking tape  
White paint  
Paint brush  
Black and red shelf adhesive felt  
Orange felt  
Pencil  
Scissors  
Glue  
White wool  
Ball of yarn

1. Help your child to stick some masking tape around the sharp, inside rim of the tin cans; allow them to paint the outside and bottom with white paint and leave to dry; apply second coat to make sure they look crisp and white
2. Draw and cut out some round black felt eyes, carrot-shaped orange felt noses and red and black felt mouths; stick a face onto each painted tin can
3. Once complete, stack tin cans and use ball or yarn and a bowling ball



# DIY Activity

## Sock Snowman 🧦

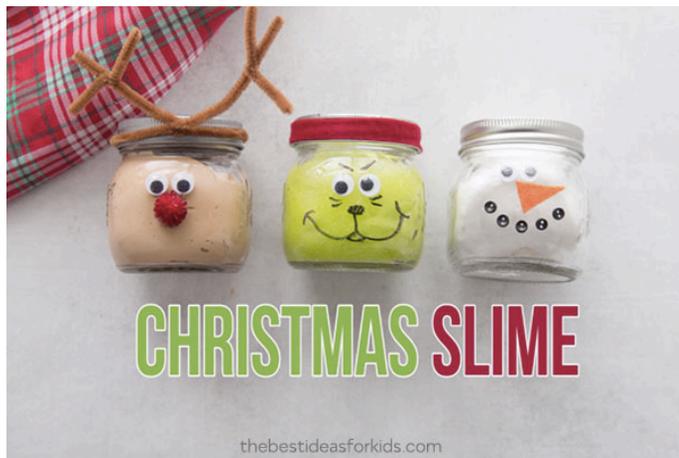


### Supplies Needed

- 1 White sock
- 1 Sock in color for the hat
- Rice
- Rubber bands (or thread)
- Colorful buttons
- Ribbons
- Glue gun
- Markers or paint
- Orange pom poms

1. Start by filling your white sock with rice. You will need a hefty amount.
2. Once you are happy with the amount (and size) of your sock snowman tie the top with the rubber band.
3. Take another rubber band and place in the middle – more to the upper side – of the rice filled sock to form the head shape.
4. Now glue the buttons to the bottom side by using a glue gun.
5. Draw the mouth and eyes with a black marker or with black paint. Add an orange pom pom for the nose.
6. Add a ribbon for the scarf – we found that glue dots and glue gun work best for ribbons, while other glues kind of fail miserably. You can cut off excess white sock (or you can tuck it in the hat we will be making next).
7. Cut the colored sock (we cut the foot part, without heel). Roll it a bit and place it on the head of your snowman. You can leave it as it is or you can secure it with some glue.

## Christmas Slime 🎨



### Supplies Needed

- 1 bottle of Elmer's glue (6 oz)
- Food coloring - optional (brown or green)
- 1/2 tsp of Baking Soda
- 1½ tbsps of contact lens solution (must have boric acid as an ingredient)

### *Container:*

- Jar
- Googly Eyes
- Marker

1. Get a bowl to mix your slime ingredients in.
2. Pour your entire 6 oz Elmer's Glitter glue into the bowl.
3. Add your 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda and mix in thoroughly. Also add 2 TBSP or more of water here (up to 1/4 cup) if you want a stretchier slime.
4. Slowly add in your contact lens solution (reminder: your contact lens solution should contain boric acid or your slime will not form). Add it in slowly and mix if possible so that you can adjust and ensure you do not add too much.
5. Knead and mix thoroughly before adding more as you do not want to add too much or your slime will get too hard. You may not need the full amount so take this step slowly.
6. Now mix until your slime forms and begins to harden. Take it out and knead, knead, knead. You may be surprised how much you need to knead to really make the slime form. If it's not the desirable consistency keep kneading. If you find it to still be too sticky, add a little bit of lotion or baby oil to your hands.

## Cinnamon Scented Pinecones



### Supplies Needed

Pine Cones  
Cinnamon Scented Oil  
Spray Bottle  
Ziploc Bag  
Jute / String / Ribbon  
Paint

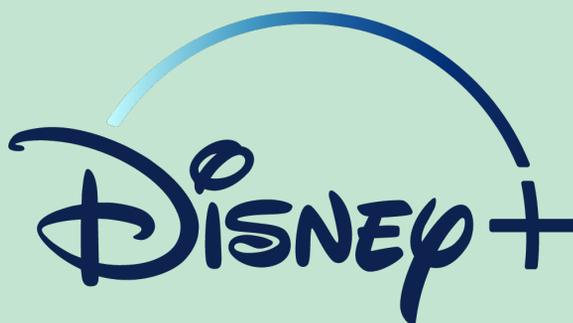
1. First collect pine cones from your neighborhood. This is a wonderful activity for the whole family. Nothing like a Christmas themed scavenger hunt!
2. After gathering your pine cones, place them on a cookie sheet in the oven for one hour, at 200 degrees. This will open them up, and also kill any bugs or bacteria. Let them cool.
3. Fill your spray bottle with a few drops of cinnamon oil, and a few ounces of water.
4. Place your pine cones in a large plastic bag, and spray your cinnamon mixture into the bag (a few sprays should suffice).
5. After your spray, shake the bag vigorously to coat the pine cones.
6. Repeat. Open the bag and spray, then shake again.
7. Final step, seal the bag and put in a warm place. (The longer they soak, the stronger the scent)
8. Once the pine cones are scented, you are free to paint.

What's Streaming  
(Family Friendly)

NETFLIX



Jingle Jangle  
Dr. Seuss' The Grinch  
How the Grinch Stole Christmas  
Dance Dreams: Hot Chocolate Nutcracker  
Mighty Express: A Mighty Express Christmas  
Klaus  
DreamWorks Home: For the Holidays



Noelle  
Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Home Alone  
The Nightmare Before Christmas  
The Santa Clause  
The Muppet Christmas Carol  
Lego Star Wars Holiday Special  
The Nutcracker and the Four Realms