



How to...

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT
The first string of holiday lights was put together in 1882 by US inventor Edward Johnson.



Record-breaking holiday decorations

These decorations hold Guinness World Records for the biggest and brightest.

Big ornament

The largest round holiday ornament measured more than 15 feet in diameter and was displayed in a mall in Dubai.



Most menorahs

In 2013, about 1,000 menorahs were lit in unison at a Connecticut hotel, the most ever illuminated at the same time in one place.



Tall tree

A 221-foot-tall Douglas Fir is the largest Christmas tree ever cut down. The record was set in 1950 in Seattle and still has not been broken.



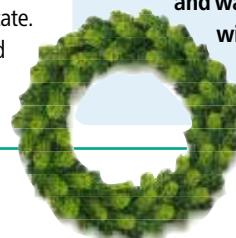
Super snowflake

An Iowa woman holds the world record for the largest paper snowflake. Her creation was more than 20 feet in diameter.



Huge wreath

People in Slovenia created the biggest wreath ever made. It measured more than 1,039 feet in circumference and was decorated with cards made by local children.



Plan a holiday lights walk

Have some festive fun by checking out your neighborhood's decorations.

This is the perfect year to come up with some new family holiday traditions. No matter which holidays your family celebrates, it can be fun to walk around your neighborhood to see the lights and decorations. Add a few games to make your outing extra cheerful. Here's how to get started.

Set a date and time

A holiday lights walk is a great way to spend time together as a family. (If you want to invite a friend or another family, be sure to follow Covid-19 guidelines in your area.) Pick a night when everyone is free, then meet up outside your home right after it gets dark.

Dress for the weather

No matter where you live, it gets chillier when the sun goes down. Check the weather and wear a jacket or coat that will keep you warm, and add a festive touch. For instance, you could wear fleece holiday pajama pants instead of regular pants. Add a silly accessory, like a funny holiday hat, if you wish. It's also a good idea to carry a flashlight so you can see the sidewalk in front of you.

Play holiday lights bingo

Get into the party spirit with an outdoor version of bingo. A few days before your walk, scope out the neighborhood and make a mental note of the different

decorations, like a menorah in the window, a blowup reindeer, or elaborate light displays. Then create your own bingo cards at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-holidaybingo. You'll type in each item on your list (you'll need at least nine things), then the website will create free cards that you can print out. Give a card to each person in your group at the start of the walk. Make sure everyone has a pen so they can check off items as they see them. The first person to connect three items in a row wins.

Try a photo scavenger hunt

Write a list of holiday items your group can look for. Some ideas: a house with all-white lights, a wreath with a red bow, a snowman. You'll need two copies of this list. Then split into two teams. Give a list to each group, and head in different directions. The first team to snap a photo of every item on the list wins. Bring chocolate coins or mini candy canes to hand out as prizes.



Look at the lights together.

Vote on favorites

If you especially love a neighbor's decorations, let them know. Have your group vote on their favorite house, then leave the owners a "Best Decorations" certificate. People put lights up to bring joy to themselves and others, so they will be happy to hear that their decorations brightened your night.