A HOLIDAY GUIDE FROM THE ROOTED REALTOR®

A Rooted Christmas

in Lake County

2026 FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY GUIDE

Parades • Santa visits • Christmas lights • Markets

Free family fun • Crafts • Special seasonal experiences

Local events and ideas with clickable event links

STAY ROOTED. THINK GLOBAL. GROW TOGETHER.

Compiled November 25, 2026 • Check event links for changes before heading out.

Welcome to a Rooted Christmas

If you know me, you know I'm the crazy Christmas lady. I put this guide together so you can spend less time looking for plans and more time making memories across Lake County. Inside you'll find Santa stops, parades, lights, markets and hands-on holiday fun around Clermont, Mount Dora, Tavares, Eustis, Leesburg, Umatilla and the smaller towns in between.

The event links take you to schedules and registration where available. Check the latest hours, prices, parking and photo details before leaving home.

A few favorites to put on your calendar

NOV 27 Light Up Eustis

Catch the tree lighting and take home a free printed photo with Santa.

DEC 5 A Saturday full of parades

Choose a morning parade in Clermont, Lady Lake, Mount Dora, Howey-in-the-Hills or Astor, or head to Tavares for the evening festivities.

DEC 12 Christmas across Lake County

Start in Umatilla or Groveland, then pick an evening parade in Leesburg or Minneola.

Merry Christmas, Wendy

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Holiday calendar | Nov 27 through Dec 4

NOV 27 Light Up Eustis

Ferran Park • 5–9 PM • Free

Santa arrives for the 6 PM tree lighting. Free printed Santa photos follow. The family zone has skating, a snow slide and face painting.

Event details / registration

NOV 28 Small Business Saturday

Historic Downtown Mount Dora • All day

Stroll the decorated downtown and shop independent stores.

Event details / registration

DEC 3 Mascotte Hometown Holiday Celebration

121 N. Sunset Ave. • 6–9 PM • Free

Santa joins the tree lighting. Browse craft and food vendors and listen to the Groveland High School jazz band.

Event details / registration

DEC 4 Light Up Clermont

Downtown Clermont • 5:30–9 PM

Tree lighting, music, carolers, food trucks and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the nearby Historic Village.

Event details / registration

DEC 4 Mount Dora Christmas Walk

Sunset Park and downtown • 6–9 PM • Free

See Santa by the Christmas tree, hear carolers and browse shops staying open late.

Event details / registration

DEC 4 Special Needs Christmas Party

Eustis Community Center • 6 PM

The county calendar lists this holiday gathering. Check the listing for attendance and registration details.

Event details / registration

Holiday calendar | Dec 4 and Dec 5

DEC 4–5 Howey-in-the-Hills Christmas Festival

Marianne Beck Memorial Library • Fri. 5–8:30 PM and Sat. 9 AM–3 PM

Friday has Santa and a 6 PM tree lighting. Saturday has craft vendors, family activities and a 10 AM parade.

Event details / registration

DEC 4 Light Up Astatula and Golf Cart Parade

Astatula • Parade listed for 5 PM • Free

The parade kicks off the town's seasonal celebration. Check the current location and lineup before leaving.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Clermont Christmas Parade

Starts at Waterfront Park • 10 AM

Floats, bands and community groups follow a loop through downtown.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Lady Lake Christmas Parade

Old Dixie Highway • 10 AM

See holiday movie-themed floats and costumes at the town's returning parade.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Mount Dora Christmas Parade

Donnelly Street and downtown • 10 AM

A morning parade with floats, marching bands and Santa.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Astor Christmas Parade and Festival

State Road 40 • Parade 10 AM

After the parade, head to the Astor Community Center for vendors, activities and photos with Santa.

Event details / registration

Holiday calendar | Dec 5 and Dec 6

DEC 5 Tavares Christmas Parade and Festival

Historic Downtown Tavares • 5 PM • Free

Stay after the parade for Santa, snow effects, skating, entertainment and a movie.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Light Up Montverde

Town Hall • 5:30–8:30 PM

See the tree lighting and the Clauses, then stay for a movie under the lights.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Mascotte Holiday Lights Parade

Sunset Avenue • 6:30–7:30 PM

An evening parade of holiday lights along Sunset Avenue.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Mount Dora Lighted Boat Christmas Parade

Lake Dora • Evening

Watch decorated boats from waterfront areas such as Grantham Pointe. Check the organizer's route and timing before going.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Community Chanukah Celebration

Clermont Arts & Recreation Center • 7 PM • RSVP by Nov. 30

Congregation Sinai hosts latkes, holiday music and a community skit. The listing gives $18 per person, with children under 12 free.

Event details / registration

DEC 5–6 Holiday Antique and Craft Market

Renninger's Antique Center, Mount Dora • Opens at 9 AM • Free admission and parking

Find holiday gifts, handmade crafts, vintage pieces and antiques at 20651 U.S. 441.

Event details / registration

Holiday calendar | Dec 6 through Dec 11

DEC 6 Mrs. Claus Holiday Bazaar and Light Up Sorrento

East Lake County Chamber • Bazaar from noon • Lighting festivities 5–7 PM

Shop craft and gift vendors, then see Santa arrive by fire truck for photos.

Event details / registration

DEC 6 Light Up Venetian Gardens and Boat Parade

Ski Beach Park, Leesburg • 5–8 PM

The tree lighting is scheduled for 6 PM. Enjoy music, hayrides, food vendors and lighted boats.

Event details / registration

DEC 6 Alternative Christmas Market

First Presbyterian Church, Mount Dora • 11 AM

A seasonal market listed on the county calendar. Check the listing for details.

Event details / registration

DEC 6 Christmas Swing

W.T. Bland Public Library, Mount Dora • 3–4 PM

The Mount Dora Jazz Band plays holiday standards in the library's Community Room.

Event details / registration

DEC 8 Cookie Decorating with Flour, Eggs and Yeast

Cooper Memorial Library, Clermont • 2–3 PM • Registration

A beginner-friendly session for all ages. Check the library calendar for availability.

Event details / registration

DEC 11 Hometown Christmas

Fruitland Park City Hall • 5:30 PM

See Mr. and Mrs. Claus and enjoy children's activities, holiday music, vendors and food.

Event details / registration

Holiday calendar | Dec 11 and Dec 12

DEC 11 Festive Friday

Ferran Park, Eustis • 6–9 PM • Free admission

Photos with Santa, a trackless train, inflatables and an outdoor Grinch movie.

Event details / registration

DEC 11–13 47th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes

Deer Island, Tavares • Ticketed

The Mount Dora Woman's Club hosts a Friday evening VIP tour and traditional tours Saturday and Sunday. Regular weekend tickets are $30.

Event details / registration

DEC 12 Cracker Christmas Parade and Festival

Downtown Umatilla near City Hall • Festival listing begins at 9 AM

Check the county calendar for the festival details and confirm the parade's separate start time.

Event details / registration

DEC 12 Groveland Christmas Parade

Lake David Park • 10 AM–noon • Free

Groveland's Candy Cane Christmas parade starts the day at Lake David Park.

Event details / registration

DEC 12 Lake County Holiday Expo

Lake County Fairgrounds, Eustis • 10 AM

The county calendar lists the holiday expo at the fairgrounds. Check its listing for hours and admission.

Event details / registration

DEC 12 Leesburg Christmas Festival and Parade

Towne Square and Main Street • Festival 1 PM • Parade 6 PM

The afternoon celebration leads into the Let It Snow evening parade downtown.

Event details / registration

Holiday calendar | Dec 12 through Dec 19

DEC 12 Moonlight Christmas Parade and Santa's Workshop

Minneola • Parade 6 PM • Workshop 7–9 PM • Free

Watch the parade on South Main Avenue, then visit the library for Santa photos, crafts and treats.

Event details / registration

DEC 12 Snow in the Park

Elizabeth Evans Park, Mount Dora

The chamber lists Dec. 12 for this family snow day. Check the city calendar for hours and activity details.

Event details / registration

DEC 13 Christmas Concert

First Presbyterian Church, Mount Dora • 5 PM

An evening Christmas concert listed on the county events calendar.

Event details / registration

DEC 19 Winter Fest

Carver Park, Eustis • City notice lists 5–9 PM

A neighborhood holiday celebration. Check Eustis Parks and Recreation for the latest activity and parade details.

Event details / registration

THRU JAN 2 Enchanted Tree Forest

Victory Pointe, Clermont

Walk past about 50 trees decorated by local organizations and businesses.

Event details / registration

HOLIDAY SEASON Downtown Mount Dora Lights

Donnelly Park, Sunset Park and Elizabeth Evans Park

Take an evening stroll through the illuminated downtown and waterfront parks.

Event details / registration

Meet Santa | Photos and special visits

NOV 27–DEC 24 Santa at Lake Square Mall

Leesburg • Select dates and varying hours

The mall has a day-by-day schedule for Santa photos at 10401 U.S. 441.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Breakfast with Santa

Tavares • 302 N. St. Clair Abrams Ave. • 9–11 AM

The listing shows $5 per adult, free for ages 12 and under, and a $20 family cap.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Donuts with Santa

Mascotte • 121 N. Sunset Ave. • 9:30–11:30 AM • Free

Drop in for a morning Santa visit at the same address as the town's tree lighting.

Event details / registration

DEC 5 Photos with Santa at Carter's Ace Hardware

Eustis • 26 E. Orange Ave. • 1–4 PM • Free

Meet Santa and his elf for a holiday photo.

Event details / registration

Meet Santa | Breakfasts and neighborhood visits

DEC 5 & SELECT DATES Breakfast with Santa at Amber Brooke Farms

Eustis • Dec. 5–6, 12–13 and 19–20 • Advance tickets required

Includes a craft, digital photo and farm activities. Ages 3–9 are $34.95 and ages 10+ are $39.95. Reservations close 24 hours before the event.

Event details / registration

DEC 7–10 Mount Dora Police Santa Tours

Mount Dora neighborhoods • 6–9 PM

Use the route schedule to find the evening Santa will pass through your area.

Event details / registration

DEC 10 Santa Visits Cooper Memorial Library

Clermont • 11 AM–noon

Santa reads holiday stories and poses for photos in the library's Community Room.

Event details / registration

DEC 19 Leesburg Breakfast with Santa

Venetian Center • 9–11 AM • $8 presale

Presale tickets are due by 4:30 PM Dec. 11 at the Leesburg Recreation Department. Check for current availability.

Event details / registration

From my home to yours...

Make the memories.
The season goes by quickly.

Whether you love glittering Christmas lights, a small-town parade, a photo with Santa, or simply seeing the excitement on a little one's face, I hope this guide helps you find something wonderful close to home.

Wendy Wagner | Broker / Owner

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