FESTIVE FACE-OFF

— FAMILY OLYMPICS —

HOLIDAY EDITION

GAME 1: Jingle Bell Shake



Supplies

- One empty tissue box for each player
- 10-15 ping-pong balls per box
- One jingle bell per box for an extra-festive sound effect
- Ribbon, string or belt to secure each box around player's waists

Setup

Following the video demonstration, attach an empty tissue box to a ribbon, string or belt with the opening facing away from the player. Place 10-15 ping-pong balls inside, then attach a jingle bell to the box for a little seasonal flair.

How to Play

Secure a box around each player's waist. On “Go!” players have one minute to shake, shimmy and bounce until every ping-pong ball is out of their box—no hands allowed! The first player to empty their box or have the least number of ping-pong balls left wins!

Watch

https://pin.it/46Mvt5tKi

GAME 2: Reindeer Derby



Supplies

- One roll of toilet paper for each player
- One miniature plastic reindeer for each roll
- A long table or other flat playing surface

Setup

Give each player a roll of toilet paper and unroll an equal length across the table. Place a miniature reindeer on the loose end of each strip, with the players holding the rolls at the opposite end.

How to Play

On “Go!” players carefully wind the toilet paper back around their rolls, pulling their reindeer toward them without tearing the paper or letting the reindeer topple over. The first player to guide their reindeer safely across the finish line wins the derby!

Watch

https://pin.it/6re0Z0D1N

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GAME 2: Ready, Set, Bow!



Supplies

- Four self-stick gift bows for each player
- An open playing area with room to move

Setup

Attach four gift bows to the back of each player's shirt. Make sure the bows are secure but can still be knocked off easily.

How to Play

On "Go!" players twist, dodge and jump as they try to knock the bows off their opponents! Players are eliminated when all four of their bows are gone. The player the most bows still attached wins!

Watch

https://pin.it/3L6b9mGTj

GAME 3: Blizzard Blowout



Supplies

- One party blower for each player
- 6–10 plastic cups per player
- One large white pom-pom or cotton ball for each cup
- A long table or other flat playing surface

Setup

Turn the cups upside down and arrange an equal number in front of each player. Place one pom-pom "snowball" on top of every cup.

How to Play

On "Go!" players have one minute to use only their party blowers to knock the snowballs from their cups—no hands allowed! The first player to clear every cup wins. If the one-minute timer runs out, the player who knocked down the most snowballs takes the victory!

Watch

https://pin.it/6re0Z0D1N

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GAME 5: Merry Mystery Roll



Watch

https://pin.it/4Y9NDy5bR

Supplies

- 12 small tabletop trees (or buckets)—six in one color and six in another.
- Numbered star toppers for the trees: two sets labeled 1–6
- One 12-cup muffin tin
- Two sets of colored paper circles or cupcake liners, numbered 1–6 to match the trees
- 2 shatterproof ornaments in coordinating colors
- 12 small prizes, cash gifts or gag gifts.

Setup

Divide the trees into two color groups and number each set from 1–6. Hide one prize or surprise beneath each tree, then arrange the trees along both sides of a table, leaving an open “runway” down the middle.

Place the muffin tin just beyond the end of the table on a chair or low stool. Line its cups with the colored numbers so each tree has a matching landing spot.

How to Play

Each player chooses a color and rolls the matching ornament down the center of the table toward the muffin tin. The color and number of the cup where the ornament lands determine which tree the player selects. Lift the matching tree to reveal the mystery prize underneath! If the ornament misses the tin—or lands on a prize that has already been claimed—roll again. Continue until every player has uncovered a merry mystery!

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GRAND PRIZES

For Jingle Bell Shake, Reindeer Derby, Ready Set, Bow! and Blizzard Blowout, have a small prize ready for each individual winner. Gift cards, holiday treats, ornaments, cozy socks, cocoa kits and other stocking-stuffer surprises are all fun options.

Hosting a big family gathering? Divide everyone into teams and award prizes collectively. You could even introduce an official Family Olympics Trophy for the overall champions. The winning team keeps the trophy—and the bragging rights—for the year before putting it back up for grabs at the next holiday showdown. Add the winning team's name and year to create a tradition that becomes more meaningful with every celebration.

Participation ribbons are another festive way to make everyone feel like a winner. Get creative with custom titles, family jokes or playful superlatives! Need inspiration? Check out Kelli's participation ribbons and trophies from her family reunion this past summer.



Pro tip: Etsy is a great place to order personalized ribbons and customizable trophies that make the occasion feel extra special.