



The
Joyful Noise
Project

Ultimate Caroling Guide

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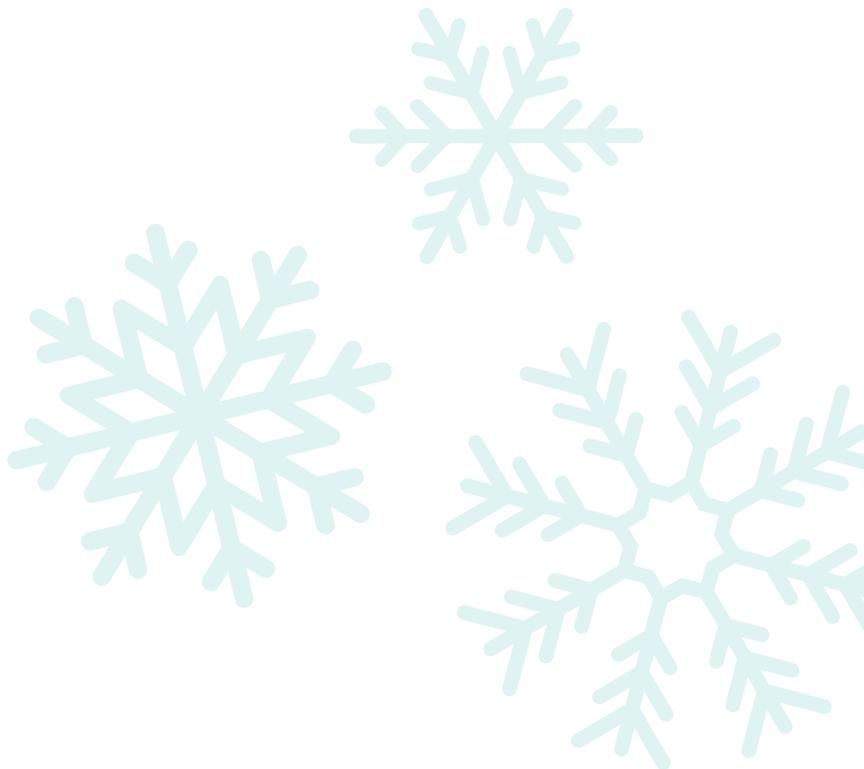
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Before Caroling

Form Your Group

Invite people to join your caroling group! Select a date, time, and meeting location. Send invitations with plenty of notice - the holiday season is a busy time, so it's best to get on their calendars early.

Plan a Route

Plan a caroling route for your group. Select a starting point and an ending point. Calculate 3-7 minutes per stop, depending on the number of songs you sing.

Keep it simple - choose a route that will be easy to walk, especially if your group will have young children or elders.

Be Prepared

Consider the walking route you've selected, the weather forecast, and how dark it might be while caroling. You might want to remind your group to bring the following items:

- Outer layers: hats, scarves, gloves, coats
- Wagon or stroller: these can prevent little kids from getting tired of walking, and might bring added safety if traveling on busy streets
- Vehicle: if anyone in your group has difficulty walking, consider taking a car or golf cart and driving a few blocks at a time
 - Be sure to not block driveways or mailboxes
- Snacks: pack some easy snacks in case someone in your group needs something along the way

Before Caroling (Continued)

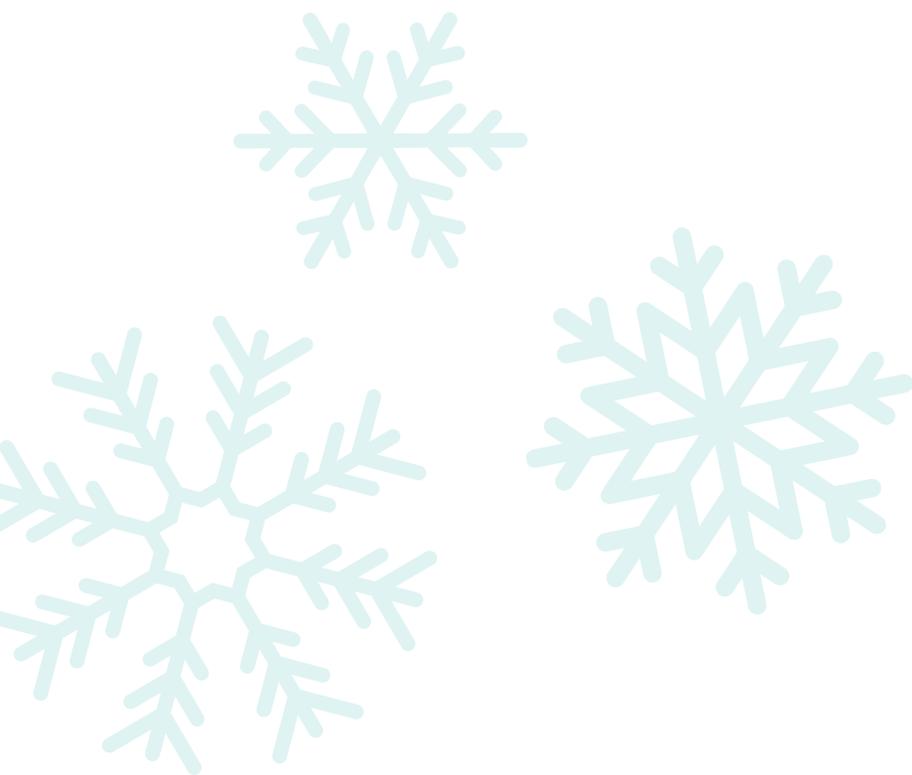
Create Song Books

To keep your group organized, it's best to have a booklet for every group member with printed song lyrics. Each booklet should have the same songs, and the songs should be in the same order. Having a Song Book means everyone is reading the same lyrics, so there is no confusion.

To make it easy for you, we've created a Joyful Noise Song Book. Simply download, print, and bind.

Practice

Practice a few songs together as a group to warm up those vocal chords and to get everyone feeling confident.



During Caroling

Choose a Song Leader

Just before setting out, select a Song Leader for your group. The Song Leader's role is to choose which song(s) will be sung at each stop, and to call it out for the group to hear.

- If using the Joyful Noise Song Book, the Song Leader will call out the number of the song as it is listed in the Table of Contents. This helps the group quickly locate the correct lyric page

Timing

We suggest singing 1-3 songs at each stop. Consider these factors for each stop:

- The length of time for each song
- The involvement level of the people you're singing to - are they enthusiastically enjoying it? Do they appear comfortable? Some people might be excited to hear 3 songs, whereas some might be ready for you to move on after 1 - use your judgement here.

The total time of caroling is up to you and your group, but we find that 30-60 minutes allows for an impactful evening without being too tiresome.

Be respectful - don't carol too late in the evening. A common timeframe for caroling is between 6:30pm and 8:00pm for evenings. Caroling can also be done during the day on weekends.

Document the Fun

Take lots of photos and videos! Bring a tripod so you can set up a cell phone to film your group singing. Film between stops to capture the reactions and excitement from your group.

REMEMBER: Always ask permission before photographing or filming anyone.

After Caroling

Register Your Group

If you haven't already, make sure your caroling group is registered on The Joyful Noise Project website - help us turn the map from red to green!

Share Your Photos & Videos

The Joyful Noise team wants to see your photos and videos! You can share with us a number of ways:

- Tag us on Instagram @the_joyfulnoiseproject.com
- Tag us on Facebook @The Joyful Noise Project
- Send photos/videos to info@thejoyfulnoiseproject.com



Frequently Asked Questions

What is caroling?

The tradition of friends, family, and neighbors walking door-to-door and singing Christmas carols.

What ages can participate?

This is an activity for every age. Just make sure that you have a stroller or wagon for the very little ones. Or drive in the car with someone who may have trouble walking or standing for over an hour.

How many songs do you sing at each house?

1-3 songs are appropriate

Do you sing at every house?

Plan to sing at houses where you know the person but also mix in some neighbors that you don't yet know. A goal of 6-10 houses is great!

How long does a night of caroling last?

We recommend a 30 to 45 minute pregame with your group prior to caroling. Caroling typically lasts 30 minutes to 1 hour, but can continue longer depending on weather and how the group is feeling!

How big of a group should I carol with?

A group can be as small as 6 or as large as 25. There aren't any firm rules around group sizes. You just want to make sure that the group can stay together.

Which songs do I sing?

Song choice is up to each group, but to make it easy, we've provided an extensive list of the most popular caroling songs, along with the lyrics, available in a downloadable/printable file. Singing a mixture of old and new, slow and upbeat songs keeps the energy up. For your convenience, our song list has the most commonly known lyrics in bold, as we suggest only singing lyrics that the whole group is familiar with.

What is the best time for caroling?

After dinner but before kids' bedtime, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

When does caroling happen?

You can carol between Thanksgiving and Christmas



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