



The Tradition Continues

Like many origin stories, NORAD's mission to track Santa began by accident. In 1955 a young child, trying to reach Santa, misdialed a printed phone number from a department store ad in the local newspaper.

Instead of calling Santa, the child called the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Air Force Col. Harry Shoup, the commander on duty that night who answered the child's phone call, was quick to realize the mistake and, not wanting to let down the child, told the child where Santa was currently located.



So began the connection between NORAD and Santa that continued when NORAD was formed in 1958. Each year since, NORAD has dutifully reported Santa's location on Dec. 24 to millions of children and families across the globe.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is a United States and Canadian bi-national organization charged with the missions of **aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning** in the defense of North America. NORAD also tracks Santa Claus every Dec. 24 through the NORAD Tracks Santa program. NORAD Tracks Santa spreads good will and holiday cheer, while also informing people around the world about NORAD's missions.



Tracking Santa Today

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in defense of North America, NORAD tracks everything that flies in and around Canada and the United States.

Homeland Defense is our #1 Priority.

On Dec. 24, NORAD has the very special mission of also tracking Santa.

NORAD Tracks Santa has grown tremendously over the years. Today through satellite systems, high-powered radar and jet fighters, NORAD Canadians and Americans track Santa Claus on his journey.

Millions of people around the world track Santa with NORAD via our website, social media, mobile apps and calls to our NTS Operations Center on Dec. 24.

The NORAD Tracks Santa website offers family-friendly games, videos and information about Santa and NORAD. People who have an OnStar subscription can ask the operator to locate Santa. Amazon Alexa users are able to request Santa's location on the NORAD Tracks Santa skill. Santa Trackers can also use Bing to learn of Santa's whereabouts.

All of this is made possible by the amazing generosity of our volunteers and our government and corporate partners who help bring the NORAD Tracks Santa program to the world for free.

We are honored that NORAD Tracks Santa has become a part of so many families' holiday traditions.





NORAD TRACKS SANTA 2025 MEDIA GUIDE

For all interview requests

Call **(404) 673-8701** or email newsdesk@dvidshub.net.

Be sure to include your station or affiliate call letters, two or three preferred time blocks and whether this will be carried live or taped.

***If you are requesting an interview on the 24th, please understand that each interview is scheduled for a 15-minute block, and blocks are filled quickly on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to schedule early. ***

For NTS Imagery/B-Roll/Commercials/Assets:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/NORAD-Santa>

NORAD Tracks Santa Social Media:



www.facebook.com/noradsanta



www.twitter.com/noradsanta



www.instagram.com/noradtrackssanta_official



www.youtube.com/NORADtrackssanta

Contact NORAD PA for non-interview questions at

Email: n-ncpa.omb@mail.mil

Phone: 719-554-6889



About NORAD

1. Defending North America = #1 priority
2. NORAD monitors and defends North American airspace 24/7/365
3. One additional mission on Dec. 24 = tracking Santa
4. US/CAN = bi-national organization charged with: aerospace warning/control and maritime warning
5. Prevent air attacks against North America
6. Safeguard the sovereign airspaces of the US/CAN
7. Responds to unknown air activities in and around North American airspace

Data (derived from NTS 2024)

- Since **1955 = 70** years in 2025
- **975** volunteers
- **380K** calls received Dec. 24
- **2,2M** social media followers
- FB **1.9M** | X **210K** | Instagram **29K** | YouTube **53K**
- **32M** views on NTS website

Fun Facts

- Family-friendly games, videos and information about Santa and NORAD (started on the website Dec. 1)
- **9 languages:** English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese
- **Over 50 corporate contributors** supporting: NTS phone lines, website, video for Santa cams, live tracker updates
- **3 systems** provide a picture of Santa's whereabouts:
 - **Radar** (i.e., North Warning System)
 - **Satellites**
 - **NORAD Aircraft:** in US F-15/F-16/F-22/F-35/KC-135/AWACS and in Canada CF-18

Contact and follow us!

1. **1-877-HI-NORAD (1877-446-6723)**
2. **www.noradsanta.org** (website)
3. **Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X (#NORADTracksSanta)**
4. **OnStar** subscribers can ask operator to locate Santa
5. **Amazon Alexa** and **Bing** users can request Santa's location
6. **SiriusXM** listeners can follow on Kid's Place Live