



Winter Wishes Toolkit

For Wish Granters

new york cares
winter wishes.

Dear Wish Granter,

Thank you for being part of something genuinely heartwarming and impactful: our 34th Annual Winter Wishes program! It's that time of the year again when we unite to make holiday magic happen for children and teens across the city.

This year, our mission is clear: to ensure that the children and teens from low-income families in NYC experience the warmth and wonder of the holidays. We're prioritizing family shelters, public housing providers, and Title 1 schools —places where your kindness will shine the brightest.

Before sending your gift, let's dive into some key details that'll ensure the holiday magic runs smoothly:

- **Tracking Codes.** Each letter you hold in your hand carries a magical tracking code. Place it on the outside of your package, or if purchasing online, please place this code in the gift message.
- **Shipping Gifts.** Your gifts are on a mission to make hearts skip a beat! Ship them directly to the agency listed at the bottom of each letter.
- **Requesting Specifics.** Do you have any questions about the gift in the letter? Like size, color, or drop-off hours? Reach out to the main contact at the agency listed at the bottom of each letter. They're the holiday helpers you're looking for!
- **Due Date.** Time flies when you're spreading love! Make sure your gifts arrive by December 9, 2024.

This isn't a solo mission; it's a team effort! Recruit your fellow wish granters, make those dreams come true, and deliver endless joy to the nonprofits and schools that are counting on us! We've got your back, too! Check out the resources on the following pages to supercharge your Winter Wishes experience.

Questions, ideas, or just want to share your heartwarming stories? Reach out to us at winter.wishes@newyorkcares.org. Let's make this holiday season one to remember, one that touches lives and leaves an everlasting mark on our city!

Get ready...The countdown to spreading joy and changing lives starts NOW!

Best wishes for a happy holiday season,

The Winter Wishes Team
winter.wishes@newyorkcares.org

About New York Cares

New York Cares was founded in 1987 by a group of friends who wanted to act against serious social issues that faced our city in the late 1980s. Finding few options to help, they created their own organization to address the problems the city faced. New York Cares is now the city's largest volunteer management organization, running volunteer programs for nearly 1,300 nonprofits, city agencies, and public schools.

Winter Wishes

Each year, New York Cares works with our Community Partners, including homeless shelters, schools, and nonprofit organizations, to provide holiday gifts for children and teens. To accomplish this, New York Cares collects and screens gift requests before pairing them with Wish Granters who purchase and send gifts to participating Community Partners. This year marks the 34th Annual Winter Wishes program.

Important Dates

- **October 2024:** Volunteers (that's you!) begin registering as Wish Granters, committing to purchase and send gifts (maximum \$40 commitment per wish) directly to your assigned agency for distribution.
- **November 2024:** Wish Granters are notified that you've been matched with individual digital letters (wishes) and can begin sending gifts to your designated partner agency.
- **December 9, 2024:** Deadline for Wish Granters to send gifts to your designated organization.
- **Late January 2025:** New York Cares shares digital thank you notes to Wish Granters. Check out our [2023 Thank You Notes](#).

Your Guide to Wish Granting

Wondering where to start? Follow these four steps to make the Winter Wishes magic happen.

Step 1: Receive digital letter: Congratulations, it's time to start granting wishes!

Step 2: Purchase gifts: Please do your best to get the requested gift, but remember, it's the thought that counts.

- For many, this will be the only gift they receive, and they will appreciate any thoughtful gift. If you cannot find the item, refer to "Popular Gifts" listed on page 5.

Step 3: Package gifts: Wrapping time! Prepare your gifts so they are fun to open.

- Wrap the gift and write the recipient's name and letter number (also known as tracking code) on the outside of the wrapping paper.
- If you order the gift online to ship directly to the agency, please have the gifts wrapped and make sure to include the recipient's name and tracking code on the packing slip and mailing address.
- Purchasing a gift card? Place it in a festive envelope or box with the recipient's name and tracking code on the outside.

Step 4: Deliver Gifts

- When you mail your gift, address the package like the example to the right.
- Please refer to the address label on the bottom of the letter to ensure delivery by the proper date.
- Be sure to include your return address somewhere on the package.



Recipient's Name, Tracking Code

c/o Agency Contact Person

Agency Name

Questions?

If you have questions about the child (e.g., clothing, shoe size, age, etc.) or the delivery date, please call **the contact person from the agency at the phone number found on the bottom of your digital letter.**

If you have any general questions about the program, email winter.wishes@newyorkcares.org.

Don't forget to share your Winter Wishes journey with us on social! [@newyorkcares](https://twitter.com/newyorkcares) [#NewYorkCares](https://twitter.com/NewYorkCares) [#WinterWishes](https://twitter.com/WinterWishes)

Using Amazon to Order and Ship Your Gift

Planning to order and send your gift directly from Amazon? Here are some tips to ensure successful delivery.

Step 1: Choose Your Gift from <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Step 2: During Check Out: For Business Accounts Only


- Enter Purchase Order (PO) Number in the format “WinterWishes_LetterNumber”



The screenshot shows a form titled "Business order information". It contains a text input field labeled "PO number" with the value "NYC_1" entered. Below the input field is a yellow "Continue" button.

For Business and Personal Accounts

- Enter Shipping Address




The screenshot shows a form for entering shipping information. It includes the following fields:

- Full name (First and Last name)**: Recipient Name, Tracking Code
- Phone number**: Agency Phone Number (with a "Why?" dropdown link)
- Address**: Agency Name c/o Agency Contact Person, Street Address
- City**: City
- State**: New York (with a dropdown arrow)
- ZIP Code**: Zip

Please note that not all agencies accept weekend delivery.

- Click “Add gift options”

Delivery date: Oct. 6, 2021 If you order in the next 13 hours and 38 minutes ([Details](#))
Items shipped from Amazon.com



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Mega Slime Kit & Putty Lab - 4 Types of Amazing Slime for Girls & Boys Plus 4 Types of Putty Including Magnetic Putty, Educational STEM Toy, an AMAZON EXCLUSIVE Science Kit
JMW Sales, Inc
\$29.99 ✓prime & FREE Returns ▾
Qty: 1 ▾
Sold by: Amazon.com Services LLC

Add gift options

Item arrives in packaging that shows what's inside. To hide it, choose **Ship in Amazon packaging**.

Choose your Prime delivery option:


- Tomorrow, Oct. 6**
FREE One-Day Delivery
- Tuesday, Oct. 12**
FREE Amazon Day Delivery
Get your orders in fewer boxes.
We're unable to provide Amazon Day deliveries on **Monday, Oct. 11**. We'll deliver on the nearest available day.

Or choose your Prime pickup option: Pick up at Amazon - Brooklyn ([View Location](#))

- Wednesday, October 6**
FREE One-Day Delivery

- Add a Gift Bag/Box
- Include the Recipient's Name and Tracking Code in the Gift Message

Choose your gift options ×



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Mega Slime Kit & Putty Lab - 4 Types of Amazing Slime for Girls & Boys Plus 4 Types of Putty Including Magnetic Putty, Educational STEM Toy, a...
Style: Slime-Putty 8 Pack
 This item is a gift

Gift Message 165 characters - 5 lines


Recipient Name, Tracking Code

Gift Message [Optional]

From VolunteerEvents

Add ons

- Gift Bag - \$4.99**



Email the recipient a copy of their gift receipt after the gift is delivered

Recipient's email address

Save gift options and continue Cancel

Step 3: Complete Check Out

Step 4: Keep a record of your Order Tracking Number so you know when your gift is delivered

Gift Request Information

Gift Cards

You may receive more requests than usual for gift cards this holiday season. Children ask for gift cards to purchase exactly what they want during the holiday season. In addition, many children write their requests in September and may not know what they want at a later point in time, so they request gift cards. Children may request a gift card to cover necessities for their household such as food or supplies. If you receive a request for a gift card, add some personal touches by including a festive card holder and personal handwritten note to the child!

Popular Gifts (by age)

When searching for gifts, you may find some gift requests to be out of stock and the child lists no alternatives. Or maybe you want to purchase additional gifts and are stumped. Whatever the case may be, you can find popular gifts by age group below. *Please note prices may have changed.*

Ages 3-4

[Flower Garden Building](#) \$26.99
[Walkie Talkies](#) \$24.99
[Construction Truck Set](#) \$19.99
[Rock and Pop Music Player](#) \$17.99
[Bead Jewelry Maker](#) \$19.49
[Foam Pogo Jumper Unicorn](#) \$14.99
[Bathrobe](#) \$19.99

Ages 5 -7

[LOL! Surprise Remix Dolls](#) \$11.99
[Paw Patrol Dino Rescue](#) \$24.50
[Light Up Tracing Pad](#) \$30.19
[Unicorn Slime Kit](#) \$28.99

Ages 8-10

[Stunt Car Toy](#) \$19.99
[Kids Punching Bag](#) \$24.99
[Light-up scooter](#) \$32.98
[Jenga](#) \$15.99
[Unicorn Bath Bomb](#) \$5.49
[Hot Wheels Track](#) \$39.99
[NERF Ultra Five](#) \$23.49

Ages 10+

[NERF Ultra Five](#) \$23.49
[Sharper Image Drone](#) \$29.99
[Model Rocket Starter Kit](#) \$30.40
[Juicy Couture Bracelet Kit](#) \$19.98
[Bluetooth Lamp Speaker](#) \$30.99
[Disney Villain Board Game](#) \$22.39

Teens

[LED Photo Clip String Lights](#) \$7.99
[Teens De-Stress Coloring Book](#) \$8.35
[Tie Dye Kit](#) \$13.71
[Face Masks Set](#) \$26.00
[Eyeshadow Palette](#) \$20.00
[Bluetooth Speaker](#) \$29.99
[Sharper Image Drone](#) \$29.99
[Bluetooth Headphone Beanie](#) \$13.91

GameStop Gift Card
Sephora / Ulta Gift Card
Target Gift Card

Expensive Gift Requests

Though we work hard to screen every letter, we may miss a few with expensive gift requests. If you receive a letter with a gift request over the price limit, you are not obligated to spend over \$40. Below are alternative for common over-priced gifts children may ask for:

iPad – Amazon Fire 7 Tablet, or a personalized gift card to go towards purchase of item

MacBook or laptop – A personalized gift card to go towards the purchase of item

Barbie Dream House – Mattel Barbie Glam Getaway Portable Dollhouse, 1 story

Hoverboard or bike – Razor A Kick Scooter

American Girl Doll – Mini American Girl Doll



Thank You!

Our Winter Wishes Program wouldn't be possible without you, our dedicated and devoted Community Partners. All the time and energy you put into the program now is sure to result in smiles, laughter, and wishes come true this December! Thank you for all you do!

Yours in service,

The Winter Wishes Team at New York Cares

winter.wishes@newyorkcares.org

(212) 228-5000



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