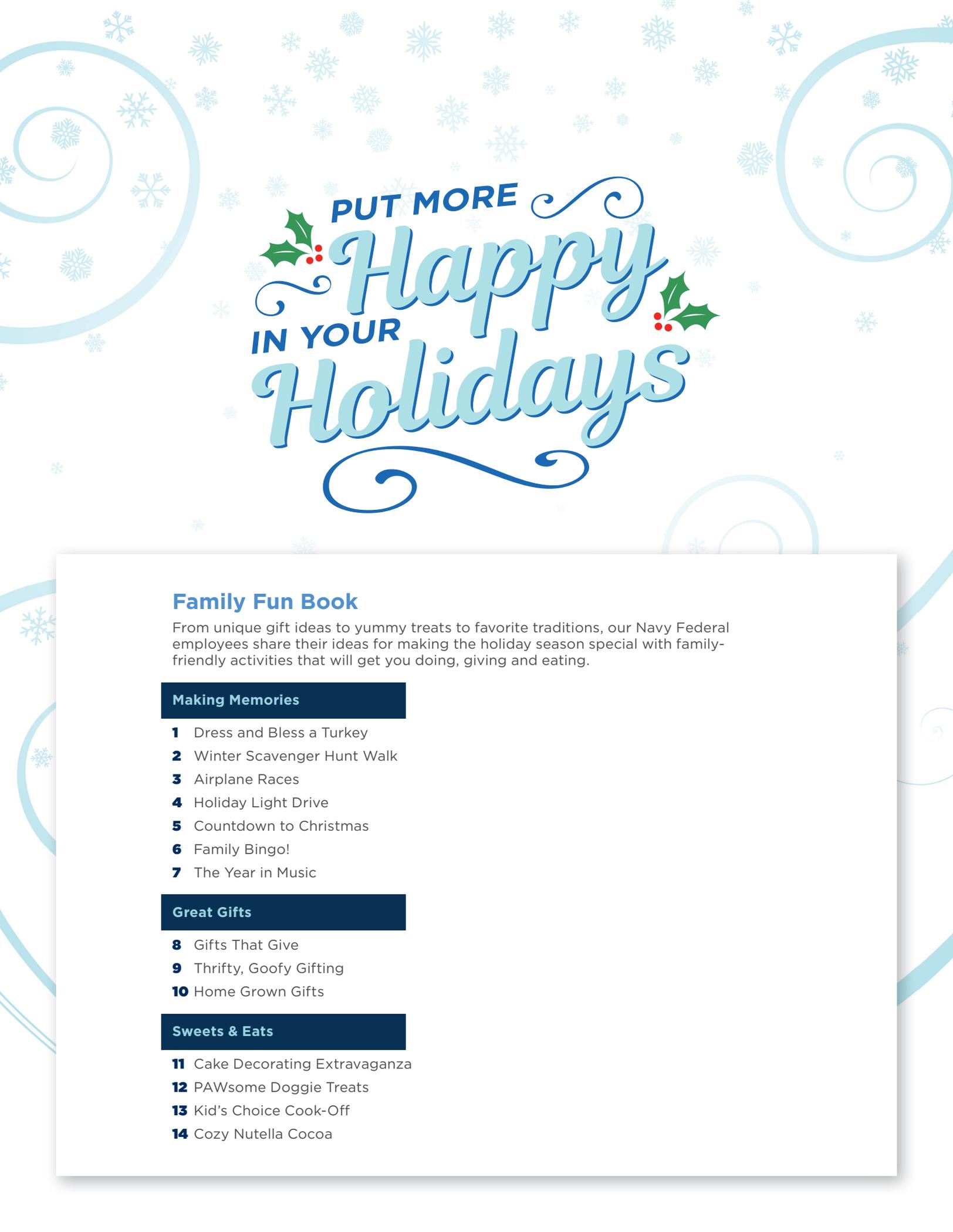




PUT MORE  
*Happy*  
IN YOUR  
*Holidays*

# Family Fun Book

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**PUT MORE**  
**Happy**  
**IN YOUR**  
**Holidays**

## Family Fun Book

From unique gift ideas to yummy treats to favorite traditions, our Navy Federal employees share their ideas for making the holiday season special with family-friendly activities that will get you doing, giving and eating.

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# Making Memories

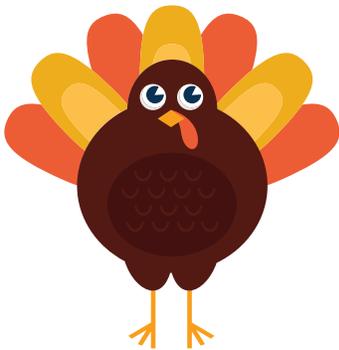
Bring family and friends closer this season with fun activities, crafts and competitions for the whole crew.

## Dress and Bless a Turkey



“Our Thanksgiving tradition is to share what we’re grateful for by writing on the feathers of a plush turkey that serves as a centerpiece of our table. Before our meal, we share the messages and try to guess who wrote the note. (It’s usually pretty easy to tell who wrote what!)”

**Alexa, Brand and Product Marketing Strategist**—Alexa’s grandfather was a Colonel, U.S. Army (retired) who proudly served in WW II, Korea and Vietnam in strategic command positions.



### How To

1. Purchase or make a turkey centerpiece. Some come with feathers you can write on, or you can make your own feathers out of construction paper.
2. Encourage children, family members and guests to fill in the turkey feathers with words of thanks.
3. Stick the feathers into the turkey, making him fully “dressed” with thanks and words of gratitude.
4. Read them aloud before you eat your meal as reminder of the people and things in your life that you love.

## Winter Scavenger Hunt Walk



“With a new little brother and less one-on-one time with mommy, our 3-year-old daughter Caroline really loves taking an evening walk with me while her dad handles bath time with the baby. To make the walks more fun, we’ve started incorporating a scavenger hunt. Last night she found everything on her list—a yellow leaf, two trees, a dog and “some other baby walking, too!”

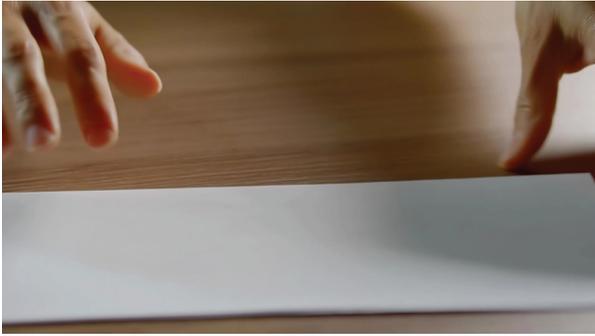
**Lara, Marketing Communications Strategist III**



### How To

1. Have your child decide what she wants to “spot” on her walk. For a holiday twist, you can suggest things like a wreath, a snowman, a red and a green car, a menorah or other festive sights.
2. Make your list. Caroline likes to draw the items on her list. If you have more than one child participating, make sure each has their own list if you want to avoid competition.
3. Take a walk and use a marker to check off the items you spot. Use this as a way to teach colors, shapes, and numbers and to recognize signs.
4. Tell daddy all about the walk.

## Airplane Races



“Growing up in an Air Force family, we all share a love of airplanes. We’re also pretty competitive. When our family gathers, we love to host airplane races. We each make a paper airplane and then compete to see whose plane flies the farthest down the hall.”

**Sheryl, Manager of Marketing and Communications**—Sheryl’s dad was a 22-year Air Force veteran.



### How To

You’ll need a piece of paper.

1. Fold the paper in half to find the center line.
2. Fold two corners into the center line.
3. Turn the paper over and fold the corners in half again.
4. Fold the pointy nose in or leave it as-is.
5. Fold the whole plane lengthwise.
6. Finally, fold the wings in half.

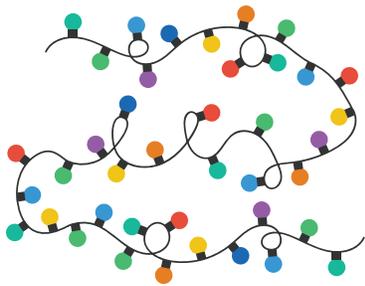
You’re ready to fly! Try different types of paper, sizes and airplane designs.

## Holiday Light Drive



“Every Christmas Eve, my family takes a drive around our town to look at the lights. We select our favorite house and then go shopping in the days following to buy them a special ornament. We deliver the ornament with a handwritten card saying we loved their lights and are sending best wishes from our family to theirs in the New Year. This tradition is special because we’ve shared our rides over the years with grandparents, pets, family, friends and significant others. It’s a time to appreciate the people in our lives and connect with neighbors we might not yet know.”

**Serena, Predictive Modeler**—Serena’s three best friends are military spouses.



### How To

1. Dress in your comfiest clothes—bonus points for holiday jammies!
2. Hand out travel mugs of hot chocolate to everyone.
3. Turn on the holiday tunes in the car and start driving!
4. Keep track of your favorite light displays.
5. Choose a winner (and it can't be from a previous year).
6. Buy an ornament, wrap it, write the card and drop it off at the winning address.

## Countdown to Christmas



“Our holiday tradition is to make an advent calendar out of a long string of 25 interlocking rings that you hang from a hook on the ceiling or on a wall. We tear off one ring each day in December, and the chain of rings gets smaller the closer you get to Christmas day. I did it as a kid and now enjoy doing it with my kids.”

**Chris, Member Research Strategist III**—Chris’ dad was in the U.S. Coast Guard, and his father-in-law is a Navy veteran.



### How To

1. Get several sheets of festively colored construction paper. You’ll want three different colors: two for the alternating links and one “special” color for the final day.
2. Identify the holiday you’re counting down to and how many days exist between then and now.
3. Cut out as many strips as there are days to go using the two colors; strips should be  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” - 1” wide and 6” long.
4. Cut one strip from the “special” paper. If you’d like, write a message on each ring.
5. Create rings by stapling or gluing the ends of the paper together. Make the first ring and then create the next ring around the first, so they interlock and create a chain.
6. Alternate the two colors and end with the “special” color ring.
7. Hang the chain and tear off a ring a day until you get to the “special” colored ring on the holiday!

## Family Bingo!



“When I was in the Army, I was stationed on the East Coast, with most of my family living in Chicago. One of the holiday traditions we had before I left was to have a big family game of Bingo. My grandma would go all out and have these great gifts for each winner. I had to miss going home for the holidays the first few years I was on Active Duty. So when I finally had the chance to go home, I was hoping the tradition had lived on. That year, my grandma went above and beyond! She bought electronics, gift cards and all sorts of really cool gadgets. My family continues this tradition. And even though I’m not able to be there in person each year, we like to FaceTime each other for Bingo!”

**Brian, Vice President of Corporate Communications**—Brian is an Army veteran.



### How To

1. Purchase a bingo game or make your own.
2. Buy prizes.
3. Designate a “caller” to call out the numbers.
4. Play!

## The Year in Music



“One of my family’s favorite traditions is our annual “Year in Review” playlist. We started this when my niece was born, and we’ve been rollin’ with the hits ever since. We create a shared playlist on a streaming music service and add special songs to it throughout the year. Whether they’re top hits on the radio, new bands we discovered, oldies or children’s songs (that can get stuck in your head), the entire playlist becomes sort of an audio “time capsule” of the music from that year. My husband and I love to listen to them on road trips and laugh about the song choices, which have included classics like “Baby Shark” and “What Does the Fox Say.””

**Amy, Marketing Communications Editor**—Amy’s step dad is a retired Air Force Colonel.



### How To

1. Decide who in the family will participate.
2. Choose a music streaming service to build your playlist.
3. Create a playlist called Family (name) Hits 2021.
4. Add songs throughout the year.
5. Have a playlist debut party to listen to all the songs and share the stories behind them.

# Great Gifts

Make your presents memorable with these special (and unexpected!) approaches.

## Gifts That Give



“Several years ago, the adults in our family decided that instead of giving Hanukkah gifts, we’d make donations to charity in each other’s name. It’s become really fun to see what charities we “get.” Last year, I adopted a blue-footed booby thanks to a donation my sister made in my name to the World Wildlife Fund!”

**Michelle, Manager of Creative Services**—Michelle’s father-in-law is an Air Force veteran.



### How To

1. Draw names among the adults in your family (or friend group) and set a spending limit.
2. Think about causes or organizations your recipient feels strongly about.
3. Research charities (try Charity Navigator – link to <https://www.charitynavigator.org>) and make a donation. You might look into military and veteran organizations, disaster relief, environmental protection or their local charities.
4. Host a call or event where the charities are revealed.

## Thrifty, Goofy Gifting



“My wife and I started a tradition where we would take our daughter to the dollar store to buy presents for family members. Whatever she picked, we would buy and wrap, no questions asked. Someone got a set of zip ties once. My sister got a sandwich container that not only held your sandwich but cut it into 4 triangles. They were some of the most random gifts you could think of. And the best part? The super hilarious reasons behind why she chose the gift for each person! One year, my brother-in-law opened a pack of 5 toothbrushes. He was unimpressed until she told him that she chose toothbrushes because “he is always showering and so clean.” My daughter (now a teenager) no longer participates, but my son absolutely loves this tradition. (And so do we!)”

**Justin, Credit Card Servicing Supervisor**—Justin’s parents are both Navy veterans, and his father-in-law served in the Army.



### How To

1. Make a list of those you’re shopping for.
2. Take your child to the dollar store to choose gifts for everyone.
3. Buy, wrap and give the gifts.
4. For gifts you’ll mail, add a card with background on why your child chose the gift. Or, better yet, host an “unboxing” during a video call and have your child explain her gift.

## Home Grown Gifts



“One of my favorite gifts to give and get are plant clippings. Growing plants this way is called propagation. It’s a newer tradition in my family and friend groups, but I have several family members who either gift me plants from their homes or ask for some of mine. For me, plants bring color and beauty to any space, which may explain why my desk and house are covered in them. I also appreciate gifts that have meaning. It’s fun to look back and remember the person and the occasion someone gifted you that little succulent. Or to visit a friend and see that Monstera clipping you gave a month ago is still alive. Whether you’re on the giving end or the receiving, plant sharing is fun. So take a clipping, give a clipping and keep the cycle going!”

**Jessye, Corporate Communications Strategist III**



### How To

Here’s how to propagate plants using stem cuttings:

1. The best section to snip for a cutting is just below a root node—the little brown bumps that appear on plant stems.
2. Cut at an angle about 1/4” below the node with scissors or a sharp knife.
3. Place in a clean glass of room temperature water—make sure the node is submerged.
4. Wait for roots to grow! Keep in mind that time varies based on the plant.
5. Once your roots are 3”-5” inches, repot the plant in soil!

Bonus tip: I always like to put a little rooting powder on the cutting roots before placing it in soil to help promote root development!

# Sweets & Eats

Recipes and activities to help you get your fill of fun this season.

## Cake Decorating Extravaganza



“With family spread across the globe protecting our nation, we had to get creative on how to spread joy and bring the young and older family members together. To do this, we created a cake decorating contest where family teams (sometimes more than one team per family unit) compete for the title of best decorated cake. Everyone is a winner really, because there’s always a ton of great cake when it’s over!”

**Beth, Supervisor of Debit Cards, Marketing Analytics & Projects**—Beth’s mother is an Army veteran.



### How To

Agree on the base cake you’ll bake. We usually go with a box mix of yellow cake, then just follow these rules:

1. All decorations must be edible.
2. Showcase all cakes on a designated day via video chat.
3. Each team gets two votes. (No doubling up votes for a single team.)
4. If there’s a tie, the oldest family member picks the winner.

## PAWsome Doggie Treats



“We recently added a new rescue puppy to our family. A Shepherd mix, Barley joined our other rescue dog Homer, who’s a crotchety old Lab mix. Along with sugar cookies for us, we always make a special batch of holiday cookies for our furry friends. For fun, we experiment with ingredients to see which flavor the dogs like best.”

**Adam, Creative Services Assistant Manager**—Adam’s brother-in-law is an Army Reservist, and his grandfather was an Army veteran.



### How To

#### Ingredients:

1 cup of flour (white, whole wheat, organic—whatever you like) and a little extra as needed  
1 4-oz. jar of pureed baby food (try different flavors like pumpkin, chicken & gravy or sweet potatoes)

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. Mix baby food with flour and knead dough. Add extra flour if consistency is too sticky.
3. Roll out dough on a floured surface and use cookie cutter to create shapes.
4. Place cookies on a greased cookie sheet and bake for 20 minutes, until the bottoms are brown.
5. For extra crispy cookies, turn off the oven and leave them to cool inside.

## Kid's Choice Cook-Off



“When we host a holiday meal at our home, we have the kids each pick a side dish they’d like to eat. Whatever they pick, we add as part of our holiday menu. We pick out the recipe together, and they help prepare the dish. We make a “cooking show” out of the cooking/baking process and record it. After we record it, we share our “show” on social media for our family and friends to see! We love this tradition because it helps bring us together for a little one-on-one time with each of our kids during such a hectic time of year. We have so much fun, and the kids feel important because they are helping make part of the meal we are going to be sharing with our loved ones.”

**Nadia, Business Operations Analyst I**—Nadia’s grandfather served in the Navy during World War II.



### How To

1. Each child picks out a few side dish or dessert options. Opt for “anything goes” or set some rules.
2. Parents help them select a recipe from those choices and shop for ingredients.
3. Lay out all the ingredients and start cooking!
4. Take turns filming each other! Have the children and parents record each other to capture the entire experience.
5. Really ham it up for the camera! Coordinating outfits, aprons and chef hats are encouraged.
6. Post your video on social media.

## Cozy Nutella Cocoa



“When I think of cooler temps and sweater weather, I immediately want to snuggle on the couch and drink a warm cup of hot cocoa in comfy pajamas with the ones I love. This Nutella Hot Cocoa recipe is the ultimate comfort drink and fun for the whole family to make during the holidays. You can even add a little something extra to the hot cocoa for the adults.”

**Brandi, Corporate Communications Strategist II**—Brandi’s husband currently serves in the Marine Corps.



### How To

Ingredients:

4 cups low-fat or skim milk

3 tablespoons Nutella

2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder

2 tablespoons sugar

Mini marshmallows

Mini chocolate chips

1. Heat milk on medium-high heat in a medium-sized saucepan until the milk begins to warm and steam.
2. Add the Nutella, cocoa powder and sugar, and whisk until they’re dissolved and combined.
3. Bring to a gentle simmer while stirring, then take off heat.
4. Pour into mugs and top with marshmallows and chocolate chips.

For the adults, you can add a little “holiday spirit” to the drink with Bailey’s Irish Cream or Kahlúa. So delicious, and it’s guaranteed to warm you up!