Creating Holiday Memories Since 1942

Christmas Around the World began in 1942 as a United Nations Day salute to the Allies during World War II. That first year, a single tree was newly decorated each day for 12 days to honor the countries fighting alongside America. A tradition was born. Families and organizations from Chicago’s cultural communities were invited to MSI to decorate individual trees representing their cultural holiday traditions. Holidays of Light joined the annual festivities in 1994, providing a multicultural display of holidays celebrating light and enlightenment.

A Very LEGO® Christmas

The Art of The Brick is getting into the holiday spirit with the addition of new holiday-themed pieces. LEGO® artist Nathan Sawaya is debuting a collection of new pieces themed around the 12 Days of Christmas. Timed-entry ticket required.

Photos with The Grand Tree and Santa

At MSI, the holidays are truly the most wonderful time of year! We invite you to create memories by visiting Santa in his festive photo studio in Yesterday’s Main Street. The whole family can pose for a fun photo with the jolly man himself and bring home a souvenir photo. Our professional photographers will also be in the Rotunda this season to take your group’s photo in front of our grand tree. This activity requires a timed-entry ticket and is not included in Museum Entry. Capacity is limited and subject to availability.

MSI Holiday Hours
Extended hour days, when the Museum closes at 5:30 p.m., are noted in white.

Santa and Grand Tree Photo Packages
Photos with Santa or in front of our Grand Tree start at just $35 per group (MSI Members receive 10% off). Purchase timed-tickets in the Entry Hall, Santa’s Studio, or Rotunda.
Give the Gift of Science

**HOLIDAY STORE**

Stock up on holiday ornaments in our Holiday Store. You’ll find festive decorations representing cultural traditions from around the world. Whether you’re looking for a special holiday gift of something unique to add to your collection, this is a must-see destination during your visit. MSI members receive 10% off all purchases.

**A MEMBERSHIP KEEPS ON GIVING!**

Membership to the Museum of Science and Industry is the perfect gift for a year full of discovery. Find the level that’s right for the science enthusiast of any age in your life, purchase online, and they’ll receive digital membership cards immediately. It’s never been easier to give a gift that will be enjoyed all year. Visit msichicago.org/gift or stop by the membership desk today.

Share what you love about this celebration using #MSIHoliday