

Standard Santa Visit Guidelines

Factors affecting Santa visit times

Santa visit times (for an event) will be fluid (and never quite exact) and will depend on the following factors:

1. Number of children present
2. Activities requested (things for Santa to do)
3. Interactivity of the guests

Number of Children Present

A typical visit with Santa involves meeting the child, having a chat (either on lap or standing by Santa), questions about what the child wants for Christmas, and finally a photo opportunity (depending on the venue).

We expect the average Santa lap visit to be no less than 90 seconds (1.5 minutes) for the child to fully enjoy their visit with Santa.

Visits can last longer depending on the engagement of the child, or if the child is scared of Santa and must be coaxed into visiting with him.

For example, if the event will have 5 children, at 90 seconds for an average visit, the total time required (just for the lap visits) will be 5×1.5 minutes = 7.5 minutes. Once you factor in the grand entrance of Santa, the meet and greet with the entire group, getting Santa situated in his chair, and then possibly a singing of 'Jingle Bells' before even starting with the lap visits, a home visit with 5 children can easily take 15 minutes minimum (or even more).

Activities Requested (Things for Santa to do)

A standard Santa visit will include the following:

1. Pre-visit meeting with person in charge to provide gifts to Santa to place in his bag to bring into the event (OPTIONAL)
2. Grand entrance into the event by Santa
3. Meet and greet with the entire group at the event
4. Getting Santa placed at his chair (or place to sit) for lap visits
5. The singing of a Christmas Carol ('Jingle Bells' or something similar)
6. Lap visits with all children at the event
7. Taking of any other requested family photos with Santa once all the lap visits are done
8. Grand exit by Santa from the event

Optional activities for any Santa visit can include:

1. Reading 'A Night Before Christmas'
2. Singing additional songs
3. Any other special photos with Santa
4. Any other special requests

The more activities that Santa has to do during an event visit will increase the amount of time he needs to complete them all.

Interactivity of the guests

As with all performances, if the guests and children interact more with Santa, it will take longer to complete all the requested activities in the chosen event visit time. Santa will always be mindful of the time remaining for the event visit and will do his best to complete all his activities within the visit time requested.

Santa Visit Time Windows

Time windows for Santa Visits include the following:

1. Up to 15 minutes
2. 15 - 20 minutes
3. Up to 30 minutes
4. Up to 45 minutes
5. Up to 60 minutes

Up to 15 Minutes:

Maximum recommended number of child lap visits: 6

This visit time is best for 1 to 6 children, and some activities may not be done depending on the interactivity and number of children.

This visit is best for events where there are few children (or even just one) as Santa can adjust his activities to make sure that the visit goes well and within the allotted time.

15 - 20 Minutes:

Maximum recommended number of child lap visits: 8

This visit time is best for 4 to 8 children, and some activities may not be done depending on the interactivity and number of children.

This visit is best for events where the total count of children will be 8 or less. Santa will adjust accordingly to make sure every child has a successful visit while still keeping to the visit time limit.

Up to 30 Minutes:

Maximum recommended number of child lap visits: 12

This visit time is best for 8 to 12 children, and some activities may not be done depending on the interactivity and number of children.

This visit is best for events where the client may want to maximize lap visits at the expense of other activities. Up to 15 children may be accommodated (NOT IDEAL) but other activities will have to be removed in order to keep the event visit at 30 or less minutes.

Up to 45 Minutes:

Maximum recommended number of child lap visits: 18

This visit time is best for 12 to 18 children, and some activities may not be done depending on the interactivity and number of children.

This visit is best for an event where extra photos or extra activities are being requested. Santa can allow for them by keeping the lap visits brisk but successful.

Up to 60 Minutes:

Maximum recommended number of child lap visits: 24

This visit time is best for 18 to 24 children, and some activities may not be done depending on the interactivity and number of children.

This visit is best for an event where the client wants the most freedom to include all the Santa activities, allow for extra photo sessions with family after the lap visits, and even include a reading of 'A Night Before Christmas.'