



24 hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks everything that flies in and around North America in defense of our homelands.

On Dec. 24, we have the very special mission of also tracking Santa.

NORAD has been tracking Santa since 1955 when a young child accidentally dialed the unlisted phone number of the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) Operations Center in

Colorado Springs, Colorado, believing she was calling Santa Claus after seeing a promotion in a local newspaper.

Air Force Colonel Harry Shoup, the commander on duty that night, was quick to realize a mistake had been made, and assured the youngster that CONAD would guarantee Santa a safe journey from the North Pole.

Thus a tradition was born that rolled over to NORAD when it was formed in 1958. Each year since, NORAD has dutifully reported Santa's location on Dec. 24 to millions across the globe.

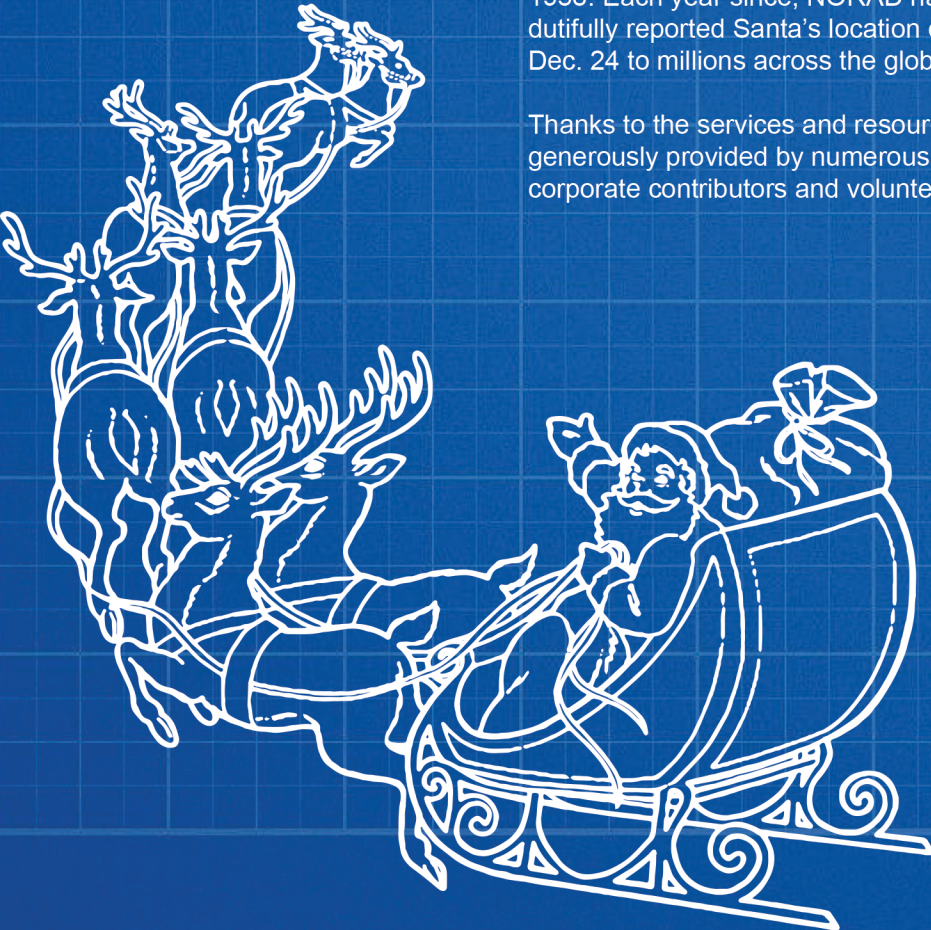
Thanks to the services and resources generously provided by numerous corporate contributors and volunteers,

NORAD Tracks Santa has persevered for more than 60 years.

Though the program began due to a misdialed number, NORAD Tracks Santa has flourished and is recognized as one of the Department of Defense's largest community outreach programs.

Each year, the NORAD Tracks Santa web site receives nearly fifteen million unique visitors from more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Volunteers receive more than 130,000 calls to the NORAD Tracks Santa hotline from children around the globe.

This year, children and the young-at-heart are able to track Santa through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.



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# Sleigh Technical Data

Feature	Answer
Designer & Builder.....	K. Kringle & Elves, Inc.
Probable First Flight.....	Dec. 24, A.D. 343
Home Base.....	North Pole
Length.....	75 cc (candy canes) / 150 lp (lollipops)
Width.....	40 cc / 80 lp
Height.....	55 cc / 110 lp
Weight at takeoff.....	75,000 gd (gumdrops)
Passenger weight at takeoff.....	Santa Claus: 260 pounds
Weight of gifts at takeoff.....	60,000 tons
Weight at landing.....	80,000 gd (ice & snow accumulation)
Passenger weight at landing.....	1,260 pounds
Propulsion.....	Nine (9) rp (reindeer power)
Armament.....	Antlers (purely defensive)
Fuel.....	Hay, oats and carrots (for reindeer)
Emissions.....	Classified
Climbing speed.....	One "T" (Twinkle of an eye)
Max speed.....	Faster than starlight

## Besides tracking Santa, what does NORAD normally do?

NORAD is a bi-national U.S./Canadian military organization responsible for the aerospace defense of North America. NORAD provides warning of impending missile and air attacks, safeguards the air sovereignty of North America, and maintains airborne forces for defense against attack. NORAD performs this important mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. But on Christmas Eve each year, NORAD has one additional mission: Tracking Santa around the world! To learn more about NORAD, go to [www.norad.mil](http://www.norad.mil)

## How long has NORAD been tracking Santa?

NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Defense Command (CONAD), began tracking Santa in 1955. NORAD replaced CONAD in 1958 and took over the mission of tracking Santa's flight around the world every Christmas Eve!  
Why does NORAD track Santa?  
Twenty four hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks airplanes, missiles, space launches and anything else that flies in or around the North American continent. While the tradition of tracking Santa began purely by accident, NORAD continues to track Santa. We're the only organization that has the technology, the qualifications, and the people to do it. And we love it! NORAD is honored to be Santa's official tracker on Christmas Eve!

## Does NORAD have any statistics on Santa's sleigh?

NORAD can confirm that Santa's sleigh is a versatile, all weather, multi-purpose, vertical short-take-off and landing vehicle. It is capable of traveling vast distances without refueling and is deployed, as far as we know, only on Christmas Eve (and briefly for a test flight about a month before Christmas).  
Note: Length, width and height are without reindeer.

## I would rather talk to someone at NORAD to find out where Santa is located. Is there a number I can call?

Yes! The NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center is fully operational beginning at 4:00 a.m. MST on December 24. You can call 1 877 HI-NORAD (1 877 446-6723) to talk directly to a NORAD staff member who will be able to tell you Santa's exact location!

## How many people support this effort, and are they active duty military personnel?

One Department of Defense (DOD) civilian from the NORAD Public Affairs staff is assigned to manage the program. In addition, almost 1,250 Canadian and American uniformed personnel – Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines, as well as DOD civilians and their families and friends – volunteer their time on Christmas Eve to answer the thousands of phone calls and emails that flood in from around the world.