SLIDE RULES!
SOCK SKATING AND OTHER COOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS B4

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Gliding into winter

Indoor sock skating ‘ice’ rink reopens with holiday exhibit at LI children’s museum

Snowflake Sock Skating brings the popular indoor “ice-skating” activity back to the Long Island Children’s Museum through Jan. 8 — with the addition of an indoor campfire pit where visitors can roast pretend s’mores, and the Frosty Café, where kids can sell imaginary hot cocoa from inside a 9-foot-tall snowman.

“It feels like the perfect thing to get people in the holiday mood,” Maureen Mangan, museum director of communications, says of the exhibit, which first launched as a test pop-up for several weeks in summer of 2021. Snowflake Sock Skating will likely return annually in the fall to mark the holiday season, she says.

The 800-square-foot rink — about the size of a four-car garage — features color disco-like displays and festive music and is cordoned off with candy-cane striped poles. The rink floor isn’t actually ice; it’s made from a high-tech synthetic polymer surface that lets users slide as if on a polished wood floor. No blades are needed — the museum instead offers disposable booties that visitors slip on right over their shoes in the beanbag chair area next to the rink. A perk of being indoors? “No running noses or cold hands,” Mangan says.

Role-play opportunities

Ali Sachdev, 44, a creative director of design from Stew-

ON THE COVER Skylar Powell, 2, and Rebecca Powell, from Queens, skate together at the Long Island Children’s Museum.
Lydia De Frances, 2, from Lindenhurst plays at a ticket booth at the Long Island Children's Museum.

SANTA AND COMPANY WILL COME TO THE LONGWOOD ESTATE IN RIDGE ON SATURDAY.

**Sleigh rides, Santa and more visit estate in Ridge**

*By Beth Whitehouse*

Taking a jaunt on an antique sleigh — the kind Santa likes to ride — is one of the activities when the big guy comes to the historic Longwood Estate in Ridge from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Upon arrival, visitors will first be met by elves and Mrs. Claus, walk through the historic house from the 1700s, and see two train displays, one with a Disney theme and the other a Victorian scene. Santa will meet children and parents can take their own photos, with an assist from the elves, says Diane Schwindt, Longwood Estate director. Kids should bring their letters to Santa and include the child’s name and address in the letter so Santa can reply. On the lawn, have roasted chestnuts and take pony rides.

Inside the grounds’ one-room schoolhouse from the 1800s, enjoy hot chocolate and face-painting. Outside the schoolhouse, take the ride on the antique sleigh — it sits atop a flatbed that’s pulled on a short path through the woods by a motorized vehicle. The sleigh, which is considered antique because nobody but Santa uses them anymore, fits about three people, Schwindt says.

The event is run by the town of Brookhaven. No advance registration is necessary, and there’s no rain date. The cost is $5 for children 12 and younger; those over 12 and grown-ups don’t pay. New, unwrapped toys will be collected for children in need. The only other cost is for pony rides; that fee will be determined by the vendor providing the rides. The estate is at the corner of Longwood and Smith roads in Ridge.