The Salvation Army of Milwaukee County
Toy Shop 2026
Frequently Asked Questions about Toy Shop Registration and Distribution
UPDATED 9/30/2026

Registration for Toys

Who can register to receive toys?
Toy Shop is for custodial parents, caregivers, grandparents, foster parents, and guardians who live in Milwaukee County. You must have custody of children aged 12 and younger to participate in Toy Shop.

How do I register to receive toys?
You must register your children online at www.SAangeltree.org November 2-29 or in person at one of the Salvation Army locations listed below between November 2 and December 2, 2026. Based on your zip code, the Angel Tree system will direct you to the correct Salvation Army location for Toy Shop distribution.

When can I register for toys?
You can register online November 2-29 or in person between November 2 and December 2, 2026. You can register in person at the dates, times, and locations listed below.

Where can I register for toys?
www.SAangeltree.org is available to everyone and easy to use!

You may also choose to register in person at the following locations – please note the dates and times:

The Salvation Army Distribution Center
5880 N. 60th Street, Milwaukee (414) 464-2971
November 2 – December 2
Mon, Tues, Wed 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Salvation Army Citadel Corps
4129 N. Villard Avenue, Milwaukee (414) 463-3300
November 2 – December 2
Mon, Tues, Wed 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Salvation Army Cold Spring Corps
2900 W. Cold Spring Rd, Greenfield (414) 673-9797
November 2 – December 4
Monday 1-6 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Salvation Army Oak Creek Centennial Church and Community Center
8853 S. Howell Ave, Oak Creek (414) 762-3993
November 2 – December 2
Wednesday only 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

What ages of children can receive toys?
Children who are 12 or younger by December 25, 2026, are eligible to receive toys.

What documentation do I need to register for toys?
To register children, parents or guardians as head of household must provide ***proof of their own*** identity, their residence/address, proof of the birthdate of each of their children, and proof of need.

How do I prove my identity?

Provide **ONE** of these documents as proof of identity:

- Current Driver's License or valid photo ID Card (valid or expired is acceptable)
- Passport or Visa
- Permanent Resident Card - I-551 (green card)
- Employment Authorization Card I-766
- Federal I-94 Arrival/Departure record
- US Military Personnel ID

How do I prove my residence?

Provide **ONE** of these documents as proof of residence/address:

- Postmarked (dated) business envelope, postcard, or magazine with printed address label
- Utility bill, bank statement, or a letter from a government agency that has your name and home address listed
- Letter, lease, or rent receipt with home address from landlord
- Property tax records or mortgage statement

***To register children to receive toys, proof of the child's birth date is required*. No child will be registered without this documentation.**

How do I prove my child's age?

Provide **ONE** of these documents containing proof of a child's birth:

- Birth certificate for each child
- If you have an infant and have not received their birth certificate in the mail yet, we can accept a birth announcement or information obtained from the hospital at birth for babies 12 months old or younger.
- W-2 Statement/Notice of Decision with information that matches photo ID and contains full birth dates
- Child's Placement Verification Letter for each child (Foster Parents, Caregivers & Placement Resource Families)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship
- U.S. Certificate of Naturalization

- Wisconsin Notification of Birth Registration
- School document with birthdate and name of child
- Public Immunization Record printout containing birthdate www.dhfsWIR.org

Digital/Electronic Documentation will be accepted if legible on mobile device.

What counts as 'Proof of Need'?

Any documentation from an agency below that includes the caregiver's or child's name:

- W2 / TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- SNAP / Food Stamps / WIC / Quest Card
- Free or Reduced School Lunch Status / School Enrollment
- Social Security: SSI (Supplemental Security Income); SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance); or Social Security benefits
- Wisconsin Shares childcare subsidy
- Unemployment Benefits
- BadgerCare / Medicaid
- Housing Choice Voucher / Housing Assistance of any kind
- Any program enrolled through www.access.wi.gov

What if I don't have the right information to register?

Proof of the child's birth date is required. If you do not have documentation, it is your responsibility to obtain it.

What if I received toys in 2025?

Families who participated in the 2025 Toy Shop are not automatically eligible for 2026. Information does not carry over from previous years, and families must register each year. You can register for 2026 at www.SAangeltree.org

Can I bring my children with me to Toy Shop Registration?

No. Please do not bring children with you during to register for Toy Shop.

What if I can't get there to register? Can someone else register for me?

Yes. You can also register online before November 29, 2026, at www.SAangeltree.org. Anyone registering in person on your behalf must bring: ***their*** photo ID, ***your*** required documentation, and the required documentation for each child. In addition, they must provide a letter from you stating that they have permission to complete the registration for you and the reason you are unable to register.

Where can I get more information about registering for toys?

Call the Distribution Center at (414) 464-2971 or any Salvation Army location listed above. You may also email us at outreachMKE@usc.salvationarmy.org

TOY DISTRIBUTION

Where do I pick up my toys?

Check your Toy Shop confirmation letter/email for your assigned distribution site, date, and time.

Toy Shop for *most* Milwaukee County zip codes is held at The Salvation Army Distribution Center at 5880 N. 60th Street, Milwaukee (just North of Silver Spring on 60th Street). Enter through the South driveway and proceed to the door labeled "Toy Shop Entrance." Please come ***at or after*** your appointment time.

Toy Shop for the *following zip codes* will be held at The Salvation Army Oak Creek Centennial Church and Community Center, 8853 S. Howell Ave, Oak Creek:
53110, 53129, 53130, 53132, 53154, 53172, 53210, and 53235
Enter at the main entrance double glass doors. Check in at the front desk with your confirmation email. Please come ***at or after*** your appointment time.

What do I need to bring with me to pick up my toys?

1) The letter you received at in-person Toy Shop registration
   OR
   a device that shows your appointment date and time email if you registered online. We ask that you **take a screen shot of your confirmation date/time and barcode** while at home because cell reception at the Distribution Center is spotty.
2) Your photo ID.

DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILDREN.

When can I pick up my toys?

Check your Toy Shop confirmation letter/email for your assigned distribution site, date, and time. If you registered online, you received an appointment date, time, and location via email. If you registered in person, you received an appointment letter with your date, time, and location. Please come ***at or after*** your appointment time.

The distribution dates and times for The Salvation Army Distribution Center, 5880 N. 60th Street, Milwaukee are:

Tuesday, December 15, 2026	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 16, 2026	12 noon – 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 17, 2026	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday, December 18, 2026	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The distribution dates and times for The Salvation Army Oak Creek Centennial Church and Community Center, 8853 S. Howell Ave, Oak Creek on Friday,

Thursday, December 17, 2026	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday, December 18, 2026	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

What happens if the weather is bad?

If you have a Toy Shop appointment at The Salvation Army Distribution Center OR The Salvation Army Oak Creek Centennial Church and Community Center:

Toy Shop registrants will receive an email if Toy Shop is canceled or closes early for severe weather. If we are closed on the day you are scheduled to pick up your toys, we will have a make-up day on Monday, December 21, 2026. Please come at your assigned location and time on Monday, December 21st to receive your toys. If the Toy Shop does ***not*** close for severe weather, we will ***not*** be distributing toys on Monday, December 21st. This is a snow make-up day ONLY. Monday, December 21 is the severe weather day for both The Salvation Army Distribution Center and The Salvation Army Oak Creek Centennial Church and Community Center.

What if I can't come during my assigned appointment time?

You can come ***after*** your assigned appointment time during open Toy Shop hours (listed above). You cannot come before your assigned time, only after.

- or -

You may have someone pick up your toys for you during your assigned appointment time. They must bring your toy pick up letter, ***your*** photo ID, ***their*** photo ID, and a letter from you stating that they have permission to pick up your toys for you. Please include both your name and your proxy's name in the letter. This is the same for both The Salvation Army Distribution Center and The Salvation Army Oak Creek Centennial Church and Community Center.

Can someone pick up my toys for me?

Yes. You may have someone pick up your toys for you during your assigned appointment time or after. They must bring your toy pick-up letter, ***your*** photo ID, ***their*** photo ID, and a letter from you stating that they have permission to pick up your toys for you.

What happens if I lose my toy pick-up letter?

We can look up your online record with your photo ID, verify your appointment time, and create a duplicate letter. This may cause a delay, so please bring your letter or have your email ready to show us to make the process move more efficiently for everyone. **The check-in process will go quicker if you have your barcode on your letter or email.**

What if I don't have a letter because I registered online?

You can show us your appointment confirmation email. Cell reception at the Distribution Center is spotty, so **please take a screen shot of your confirmation date/time and barcode** while at home. Remember to bring your photo ID with you to your assigned appointment time. We will verify your information in our computer system. If we determine that you have not already received your toys, you will be given a duplicate distribution letter and be able to shop for toys.

Can I bring my children with me to pick up toys?

No. Please do not bring your children with you to shop for toys. There is no supervised waiting area for the children. If you bring your children with you, you will be required to wait with them while a volunteer chooses your toys for you. ***No children, including infants, will be allowed into the Toy Shop area. There will be no exceptions made.***

How many toys will I get?
Will I be able to request specific toys?
We are still collecting and sorting toy donations. Staff will make decisions about what each family and child can receive based on availability once Toy Shop is set up. Your volunteer shopper will let you know the amount of items you can select once you're at Toy Shop. We cannot guarantee that all collected toys will be suitable for every age group, but in years past, we have had a variety of toys, games, crafts, and books.

Toy Shop distribution is over, and I didn't pick up toys for my children. Can I still get toys?

Please email outreachMKE@usc.salvationarmy.org with your zip code as soon as possible.

Where can I get more information about Toy Shop distribution?

Call The Salvation Army Distribution Center at (414) 464-2971
-OR-
Call The Salvation Army Oak Creek at (414) 762-3993
-OR-
You may also email us at outreachMKE@usc.salvationarmy.org