



ISMO
December 2021

National Defense University



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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December at NDU

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- **TUESDAYS:** Ruth's English Class
*Adv Speakers @ 1000
*Intermediate @ 1300
- **FRIDAYS (1000):** SpICE Meetings
- ♦ **20 Dec-3 Jan:** Semester Break

Several holidays are celebrated in December in the United States: Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and more! Americans common utilize the phrase "Happy Holidays!" and while "happy" is the adjective of choice for most of them, we wish a "merry" Christmas!

From pop up markets to caroling, there are so many ways to celebrate the holidays and have the best season yet. In addition to this newsletter, we recommend viewing the Washingtonian 2021 Holiday Season Calendar of Events

*If you have any suggestions or recommendations for next month's newsletter,
email me ISMO@ndu.edu!*



LIGHT DISPLAYS



National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The tradition of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse began with President Calvin Coolidge over 90 years ago. Today, the tree lighting remains a beloved holiday in DC. The tree is decorated with handmade ornaments from the 56 US states and territories.

On December 5th, you can watch the 2021 National Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony on CBS and online.

You can visit the tree all month!

Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Capitol Christmas Tree is erected every winter on the West Front Lawn of the United States Capitol. The tradition has been underway since 1919. It is lit during a ceremony in early December with plenty of live entertainment. Check online for updates about the 2021 ceremony.



Holiday Boat Parade at the Wharf

On December 4, go down to the Wharf in Southwest DC and get into the spirit with a holiday boat parade beginning at 1900. You can arrive early and enjoy the fire pit or visit the lighted Christmas Tree. Fireworks will begin at 2000.



Enchant at Nationals Park

The famous light maze returns to Nationals Park Nov 26– Jan 2. There will be ice skating trails, a holiday village for shopping local businesses, and kid-friendly play areas.

Tickets should be purchased online

DC Holiday Lights

Neighborhoods throughout D.C. will be decorating their main streets Nov 19– January 6th. Enjoy the festive lights and décor , then cast your vote for your favorite neighborhood!



Christmas Illumination at George Washington's Mount Vernon

See the Mount Vernon estate illuminated with wintry lights and sparkling fireworks on over the Potomac

Date: Dec 17 & 18 1730-2030

Tickets available online





Lay a Wreath at Arlington National Cemetery

Volunteer to lay wreaths on headstones at the largest military cemetery in the US in honor of National Wreaths Across America Day. You can join the event on December 18, or visit any other day to pay your respects.

Volunteer online

Downtown Holiday Market

Get your holiday shopping done at the 17th annual Downtown Holiday Market. Local small businesses, restaurants, and live entertainment will be set up at the center of 8th and F Streets NW from 19 Nov to 23 Dec. The market is open from 1200 to 2000 every day.



Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show

The first professional dance company dedicated to the tradition of Step is hosting their 10th annual Holiday show Dec 9– 19th!

Purchase tickets online

Start Planning for New Year's Eve!

The end of 2021 arrived quickly! Now is the time to start thinking of how you'll ring in 2022.

You can find NYE parties and events on Eventbrite.com



ISMO Family Programs

Weekly English Conversation Classes

Join our group of spouses at a weekly meeting to chat with each other and discuss a variety of topics with an English teacher.

Advanced Speakers: 10-11am NDU ISMO Patio

Intermediate Speakers: 1-2pm The Activity Room at Crystal Towers (1600 South Eads St)

Join SpICE - the Spouses International Cultural Exchange Group

This social group, open to all spouses affiliated with NDU, meet in-person or online weekly. The full schedule of events is posted to the Facebook page.

[**SpICE 2021-2022**](#)

**For all questions about Family Programs,
please contact Ms. Laura Garvie at ISMO**