Elf on the Shelf 2026 Idea Calendar: 29 Nights

One easy idea a night from Thu., Nov. 26 to Thu., Dec. 24. T = night from Thanksgiving, D = night from Dec. 1

Thursday

November 26, 2026

Thanksgiving Day

Facts

- Most Scout Elves return the night of Thanksgiving or on Dec. 1.

NIGHTS T1 TO T15

- [ ] Thu., Nov. 26 | T1 | Welcome-back note propped against a book
- [ ] Fri., Nov. 27 | T2 | Marshmallow snowman on a saucer
- [ ] Sat., Nov. 28 | T3 | Blanket-and-flashlight campsite under a table
- [ ] Sun., Nov. 29 | T4 | Read a holiday book to the stuffed toys
- [ ] Mon., Nov. 30 | T5 | Countdown note taped to the fridge
- [ ] Tue., Dec. 1 | T6 D1 | Paper fish 'fishing' in the sink
- [ ] Wed., Dec. 2 | T7 D2 | Wrap the TV remote in paper
- [ ] Thu., Dec. 3 | T8 D3 | Yarn clothesline of socks in the hallway
- [ ] Fri., Dec. 4 | T9 D4 | Spell a message in cereal on the counter
- [ ] Sat., Dec. 5 | T10 D5 | Toy-car traffic jam across the floor
- [ ] Sun., Dec. 6 | T11 D6 | Sit by a book with a paper bookmark
- [ ] Mon., Dec. 7 | T12 D7 | Paper chain looped over a doorway
- [ ] Tue., Dec. 8 | T13 D8 | Sit in the fruit bowl with a note
- [ ] Wed., Dec. 9 | T14 D9 | Peek out of the cereal cupboard
- [ ] Thu., Dec. 10 | T15 D10 | Candy cane tucked into a shoe

NIGHTS T16 TO T29

- [ ] Fri., Dec. 11 | T16 D11 | Board game set up with a note
- [ ] Sat., Dec. 12 | T17 D12 | Paper-cup tower with pom-pom snowballs
- [ ] Sun., Dec. 13 | T18 D13 | Stuffed-toy movie night, paper popcorn bags
- [ ] Mon., Dec. 14 | T19 D14 | Sticky-note messages on the bathroom mirror
- [ ] Tue., Dec. 15 | T20 D15 | Sit in the tree branches with a note
- [ ] Wed., Dec. 16 | T21 D16 | Spoon and a bowl of oatmeal with a note
- [ ] Thu., Dec. 17 | T22 D17 | Paper snowflakes taped on a window
- [ ] Fri., Dec. 18 | T23 D18 | Toilet-paper-roll bowling set in the hall
- [ ] Sat., Dec. 19 | T24 D19 | Tiny gift boxes lined up on a shelf
- [ ] Sun., Dec. 20 | T25 D20 | Letter for each child by the stockings
- [ ] Mon., Dec. 21 | T26 D21 | Hat on a stuffed toy, with a note
- [ ] Tue., Dec. 22 | T27 D22 | Draw a snowy scene on a dry-erase board
- [ ] Wed., Dec. 23 | T28 D23 | Pillow-fort 'sleigh' with a note
- [ ] Thu., Dec. 24 | T29 D24 | Goodbye note and a thank-you drawing

Source: The Elf on the Shelf, November Elf Prep Checklist; U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Federal Holidays. Night counts and ideas are ours.