



2018 Red Suit Survey

Survey director - Santa Tim Connaghan

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Survey Name: 2018 Red Suit Survey

Response Status: 475 Partial & Completed Respondents

Filter: None

Survey Closed: 10/29/2018 1:01 AM PDT

1. How Old are you? Please just list you age numerically in real years.

471 Response(s)

Average age of a Santa 65.1. Youngest, 18. Oldest working Santa, 87 years old

2. How much do you weigh? Please just list your weight numerically in pounds.

470 Response(s)

Average weight 251.2 pounds (113.9 kilos)

3. Is the "Bowl of Jelly" real or padding?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Real	390	82.1%
Padding	77	16.2%
No Responses	8	1.6%

4. Where do you Live?

State/Province	460
Postal Code	460

5. How many years have you been a Santa? Again please, just the numbers. No editorial or written descriptions.

470 Response(s)

6. Where do you, or have you, appeared or worked as Santa? You may check one or more answers.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I appear at Private and Corporate Parties	408	86.9%
I work for a Photo Company/Mall	198	42.2%
I appear at Charity and Non-Profit events	387	82.5%
I am retired from being Santa	5	1.0%
I appear in a Parade	173	36.8%
I appear at a Tree Lighting	237	50.5%
I have appeared as Santa in print advertising	145	30.9%
I have appeared as Santa in a local commercial - Cable	79	16.8%
I have appeared as Santa in a regional Commercial	44	9.3%
I have appeared as Santa in a national commercial	26	5.5%
I've appeared on a national network talk or reality show	31	6.6%
I have appeared as Santa in a major motion picture	7	1.4%
I have been interviewed or featured as Santa in a documentary about Santas	74	15.7%
I visit family of deployed Military personnel	97	20.6%
I visit Wounded Warriors	40	8.5%
I volunteer as Santa for Toys for Tots	101	21.5%
I am Santa for Make a Wish	22	4.6%
I am a Hospice trained Santa	52	11.0%
I visit Senior Centers and Convalescent Homes	244	52.0%
I visit Hospitals	199	42.4%
106 Comment(s)		

7. Why or What made you decide to be a Santa?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
My Church asked me	27	5.6%
My Family (Wife, Daughter, Son) asked me to do it	67	14.1%
The Local School asked me	21	4.4%
My employer asked me	32	6.7%
My Service Club asked me	13	2.7%
My Friends / Neighbors asked me	57	12.0%
I have always wanted to be Santa	98	20.6%
I have the look or size and /or mage of Santa	130	27.3%
I was interested in the business opportunities	21	4.4%
No Responses	9	1.8%
107 Comment(s)		

8. Have you ever been 'wet' on, or soiled, by a child or baby?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	138	29.0%
No	331	69.6%
No Responses	6	1.2%
70 Comment(s)		

9. If you were wet upon or soiled, did you have to leave the set to change?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	55	11.5%
No	218	45.8%
No Responses	202	42.5%
54 Comment(s)		

10. When you first became Santa, did you readily accept the Red Suit? Or were you a reluctant Santa?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I readily became Santa, even before meeting the children	328	69.0%
I was reluctant, but once I put on the suit, and saw the children's faces, I knew I could do this forever.	141	29.6%
No Responses	6	1.2%
38 Comment(s)		

11. Are you a "Traditional Bearded" Santa or a "Real Bearded" Santa.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Traditional Bearded (Wearing a Theatrical or temporary beard and wig set)	35	7.3%
Real Bearded (your own real beard)	434	91.3%
No Responses	6	1.2%

12. What was your Beard Evolution?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I have always worn a beard and wig set.	30	6.3%
I started with a beard and wig set and now have a real beard	121	25.4%
I have had a real beard, but now just wear a beard and wig set	3	<1%
I have always been real bearded	315	66.3%
No Responses	6	1.2%
47 Comment(s)		

13. Tell us about your beard and hair. Do you have a full head of hair or are you bald? (Of course, we wear a hat, so most children don't know) Are you naturally white or do you have a beauty salon take care of you. Or, do you have an account at Sally's! Select one answer

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I wear a commercial beard and wig set.	28	5.8%
I am naturally bearded, have a full set of hair and am naturally white	139	29.2%
I am naturally bearded, am bald on top and am naturally white	76	16.0%
I am naturally bearded, am totally bald and am naturally white	8	1.6%
I am naturally bearded, have a full set of hair and bleach or lighten my hair	122	25.6%
I am naturally bearded, am bald on top and bleach or lighten my hair	62	13.0%
I am naturally bearded, totally bald and bleach or lighten my beard	7	1.4%
Other	25	5.2%
No Responses	8	1.6%
50 Comment(s)		

14. Have you ever had someone pull on your beard to see if it were real?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, mostly by questioning children	310	65.2%
Yes, mostly by inquisitive adults	97	20.4%
No, I have never experienced a puller	40	8.4%
Other	22	4.6%
No Responses	6	1.2%
62 Comment(s)		

15. What Size Boot do you wear?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
8	12	2.5%
8.5	13	2.7%
9	33	6.9%
9.5	27	5.6%
10	56	11.7%
10.5	73	15.3%
11	67	14.1%
11.5	33	6.9%
12	67	14.1%
12.5	11	2.3%
13	44	9.2%
13.5	9	1.8%
14	25	5.2%
No Responses	5	1.0%

16. How many times a day do children step on your boots?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
1-5	246	51.7%
6-10	69	14.5%
11-15	34	7.1%
16-20	21	4.4%
21-25	8	1.6%
26-30	5	1.0%
More than thirty times a day	28	5.8%
Other	56	11.7%
No Responses	8	1.6%
37 Comment(s)		

17. How many times a day do children sneeze or cough on you?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
1-3	231	48.6%
4-6	121	25.4%
7-9	44	9.2%
10-12	37	7.7%
13-15	7	1.4%
More than fifteen times a day	27	5.6%
No Responses	8	1.6%
40 Comment(s)		

18. What Percentage of Babies visiting you, Cry?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Less than 10%	294	61.8%
25%	127	26.7%
50%	29	6.1%
More than 50%	17	3.5%
No Responses	8	1.6%
39 Comment(s)		

19. What is Santa's (Your) preferred give-a-way?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Stickers	73	15.3%
Plastic Coins	30	6.3%
Candy Canes	234	49.2%
Trading Cards	30	6.3%
Other	96	20.2%
No Responses	12	2.5%
51 Comment(s)		

20. What month do you begin planning for Christmas?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
January	122	25.6%
February	13	2.7%
March	10	2.1%
April	20	4.2%
May	27	5.6%
June	39	8.2%
July	58	12.2%
August	63	13.2%
September	51	10.7%
October	49	10.3%
November	11	2.3%
December	4	<1%
No Responses	8	1.6%

21. Do you use an agent?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I use an agent to exclusive handle my bookings	17	3.5%
No, I handle all my bookings personally	256	53.8%
No, I work directly for a Mall or Photo Company	54	11.3%
Nothing exclusive. I am listed with many entertainment agents.	105	22.1%
Other	36	7.5%
No Responses	7	1.4%
54 Comment(s)		

**22. What tasks or projects do you complete before you Start your Season?
(before Thanksgiving) (Select any or all that apply)**

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I finish mailing/e-mailing my Christmas Cards and/or letters	94	20.7%
I finish all my Christmas Shopping	116	25.6%
I finish decorating inside my home	146	32.3%
I finish decorating and lighting the outside of my home	162	35.8%
Other	139	30.7%
52 Comment(s)		

23. What is the longest distance you have traveled for a regular Santa Visit? (Not a commercial or movie, etc.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I keep it under 50 miles	160	33.6%
I keep it under 100 miles	136	28.6%
I have traveled up to 150 miles	68	14.3%
I have traveled up to 200 miles	31	6.5%
I have traveled over 250 miles to make a visit	53	11.1%
Other	19	4.0%
No Responses	8	1.6%

24. What is Santa's (your) favorite cookie? Or snack that the children leave out?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Chocolate Chip	241	50.7%
Rice Krispy Treat	3	<1%
Gingerbread	10	2.1%
Oatmeal Raisin	88	18.5%
Oreo	2	<1%
Peanut Butter	30	6.3%
Sugar Cookie	35	7.3%
Other	60	12.6%
No Responses	6	1.2%

46 Comment(s)

25. What is Santa's (your) favorite Christmas Eve beverage?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Milk	129	27.1%
Hot Cocoa	134	28.2%
Egg Nog	80	16.8%
Coca-Cola	42	8.8%
Coffee	28	5.8%
Tea	11	2.3%
Other	47	9.8%
No Responses	4	<1%

26. What is your favorite Christmas Song?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Santa Claus is Coming to Town	100	21.0%
Jingle Bells	58	12.2%
White Christmas	57	12.0%
Christmas Song	20	4.2%
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	58	12.2%
Silent Night	67	14.1%
Little Drummer Boy	24	5.0%
Twelve Days of Christmas	1	<1%
Grandma Got Run over by a Reindeer	7	1.4%
Other	78	16.4%
No Responses	5	1.0%

27. What is Santa's (your) favorite greeting?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Merry Christmas	446	93.8%
Happy Holidays	5	1.0%
Season's Greetings	0	0.0%
Joyous Noel	0	0.0%
Feliz Navidad	0	0.0%
Happy Hanukkah	0	0.0%
Mele Kalikimaka	1	<1%
Other	19	4.0%
No Responses	4	<1%

28. What is Santa's (your) favorite movie?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Scrooge/A Christmas Carol (1951 with Alistair Sim)	27	5.6%
Miracle on 34th Street (1948) Edmund Gwenn	170	35.7%
A Christmas Story (Ralphie, BB Gun, 50th Anniversary this year)	35	7.3%
Santa Clause (Tim Allen	75	15.7%
White Christmas (Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen	28	5.8%
Elf (Wil Farrell)	17	3.5%
Santa Claus - the Movie (David Huddleston, Dudley Moore)	13	2.7%
It's a Wonderful Life (Jimmy Stewart)	64	13.4%
Nightmare Before Christmas (Tim Burton)	1	<1%
Holiday Inn (Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire)	4	<1%
Other	35	7.3%
No Responses	6	1.2%

29. What is Santa Driving this year? Personal Vehicles only. If your vehicle is one of the newer alternative fuel vehicles, do not list the type (truck, van, etc.) but rather just list whether it is electric, hybrid or bio-fuel.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Compact Car	48	10.1%
Mid-Sized Car	78	16.4%
All-electric Car	2	<1%
Bio-fuel Vehicle	1	<1%
Hybrid (Electric/Gas) vehicle	18	3.7%
Pick Up Truck	102	21.4%
SUV	140	29.4%
Van	46	9.6%
Other	35	7.3%
No Responses	5	1.0%

40 Comment(s)

30. If you could upgrade Santa's Sleigh (your vehicle), what would you add?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Heated Seats	47	9.8%
Sun/Moon Roof	23	4.8%
GPS	53	11.1%
Blue Tooth for Phone	23	4.8%
Ice Chest (for cold water & snacks)	47	9.8%
Personal Driver / Navigator / Assistant	128	26.9%
Mobile Internet	49	10.3%
Other	88	18.5%
No Responses	17	3.5%
29 Comment(s)		

31. Do you ride a motorcycle? If you do, please check off the manufacturer. Do not use other to tell us you are riding an exclusive model of a Harley or Honda. Check Harley or Honda and use comments if you want to tell us "Fat Boy" or size of engine or with side car, etc. I forgot to add the category, "Mrs. Claus won't let me!"

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I own and ride a Harley Davidson	30	6.3%
I own and ride a Gold Wing	8	1.6%
I ride a Can-Am Spyder	2	<1%
I like to ride but do not own a motorcycle	67	14.1%
I do not ride a bike	329	69.2%
Other	28	5.8%
No Responses	11	2.3%
39 Comment(s)		

32. Where will you be working this year? Select one answer as your main work.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Volunteer Santa	49	10.3%
In Business for my self - private parties, home visits	259	54.5%
Work for Home Video Calls Company	0	0.0%
Work for Amusematte	3	<1%
Work for WorldWide	16	3.3%
Work for Cherry Hill	25	5.2%
Work for Noerr Programs	6	1.2%
Work for an independent Photo Co or Mall (No national photo company)	21	4.4%
Work at Bass Pro	23	4.8%
Work Directly for a Mall, or Department Store. no photo company	16	3.3%
Work for a Theme Park or Attraction or Stage Show	13	2.7%
Own my own Photo Company	2	<1%
Other	35	7.3%
No Responses	7	1.4%
47 Comment(s)		

33. Do you appear in a community parade?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I do not appear in any parade	280	58.9%
Yes, I volunteer to appear in a parade	83	17.4%
Yes, I am paid to appear in a parade	93	19.5%
Other	13	2.7%
No Responses	6	1.2%
40 Comment(s)		

34. Do you preside over any Tree Lighting Ceremonies?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I do not appear at any tree lighting	235	49.4%
Yes, I volunteer to appear at a tree lighting ceremony	67	14.1%
Yes, I get paid to appear at a tree lighting ceremony	160	33.6%
Other	7	1.4%
No Responses	6	1.2%
27 Comment(s)		

35. When are you starting work this year?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Prior to November 3	143	30.1%
November 9 or 10	43	9.0%
November 16 or 17	77	16.2%
November 19 or 20	28	5.8%
The day after Thanksgiving, November 23	54	11.3%
November 28 or later	58	12.2%
Other	65	13.6%
No Responses	7	1.4%
47 Comment(s)		

36. If working at a Mall, how many hours a day will you be working? (Please give us only the hours you work or appear as Santa. Do not include time for driving, dressing or preparations.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
4 hours or less a day	19	4.0%
5 hours a day	25	5.2%
6 hours a day	23	4.8%
7 hours a day	8	1.6%
8 hours a day	20	4.2%
9 hours a day	9	1.8%
10 hours a day	17	3.5%
11 hours a day	6	1.2%
12 hours a day	2	<1%
More than 12 hours a day	0	0.0%
Other	78	16.4%
No Responses	268	56.4%

37. If working at a Mall, what is your average hourly rate? (This question is not required, and information collected will not be used in any competitive nature.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
\$10 or less an hour	1	<1%
\$11 to \$15 an hour	2	<1%
\$16 to \$20 an hour	6	1.2%
\$21 to \$25 an hour	17	3.5%
\$26 to \$30 an hour	13	2.7%
\$31 to \$35 an hour	22	4.6%
\$36 to \$40 an hour	12	2.5%
\$41 to \$45 an hour	8	1.6%
\$46 to \$50 an hour	14	2.9%
Over \$51 an hour	34	7.1%
No Responses	346	72.8%

38. If you are working or volunteering independently, when will you start your Holiday visits?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
During the week before Thanksgiving	106	22.3%
After Thanksgiving	189	39.7%
The week before Christmas	11	2.3%
Other	84	17.6%
No Responses	85	17.8%

39. As an independent Santa, how many total hours will you work during the entire holiday season?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
10 hours or less	15	3.1%
10 to 20 hours	33	6.9%
21 to 30 hours	33	6.9%
31 to 40 hours	38	8.0%
41 to 50 hours	31	6.5%
51 to 60 hours	39	8.2%
61 to 70 hours	29	6.1%
71 to 80 hours	21	4.4%
81 to 90 hours	22	4.6%
91 to 100 hours	25	5.2%
Over 100 hours	121	25.4%
Other	17	3.5%
No Responses	51	10.7%
31 Comment(s)		

40. As an independent Santa, what do you charge per hour

Results of this question are restricted as proprietary information.

41. Besides the basic tasks or work as Santa, what else do you do when visiting children and families or making public appearances? You may check more than one.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I am a basic Santa, talk to children, pose for photos and hand out presents.	404	86.1%
I read a book or tell stories	371	79.1%
I can sing songs	201	42.8%
I can perform a little magic	91	19.4%
I play a musical instrument (explain below)	18	3.8%
I work with puppets (explain below)	14	2.9%
Other	27	5.7%
49 Comment(s)		

42. As Santa, how many children do you visit with daily?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Less than 24	91	19.1%
25 to 50	92	19.3%
50 to 100	91	19.1%
100 to 150	94	19.7%
200	32	6.7%
250	23	4.8%
300	12	2.5%
350	9	1.8%
400	3	<1%
450	2	<1%
500	10	2.1%
550	1	<1%
600	0	0.0%
650	0	0.0%
700	3	<1%
750	1	<1%
800	0	0.0%
850	1	<1%
900	0	0.0%
More than 1000 children every day.	1	<1%
No Responses	9	1.8%

43. What is the average length of a child's visit with you?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
30 seconds	11	2.3%
one minute	62	13.0%
90 seconds	58	12.2%
two minutes	135	28.4%
more than two minutes	203	42.7%
No Responses	6	1.2%

44. Santa often hears difficult requests and wishes from Children. Often these children are worried because the parents are having difficulties and the children are trying to help find a fix. Using the scale below, please tell us if you heard any of these difficult questions last year, and how it differed from previous years, the scale is 1 to 5 with 1 being you are hearing it much less than previous years and 5 being you are hearing these requests much more than in previous years.

1 = Much Less, 2 = Slightly Less, 3 = About the Same, 4 = Slightly More, 5 = Much More

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option.

Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	1	2	3	4	5
Children wishing for help to reverse a Divorce or Separation	97 24%	47 12%	229 56%	28 7%	6 1%
Children worried about the economy	180 45%	65 16%	133 33%	19 5%	2 1%
Children wishing for a Parent to find a job	134 33%	78 19%	156 39%	29 7%	6 1%
Children wishing to have a home	127 32%	70 18%	167 42%	28 7%	7 2%
Children worried that Santa won't be able to find them	46 11%	51 12%	229 56%	76 18%	10 2%
Children worried because a loved-one died	82 20%	48 12%	215 53%	53 13%	7 2%
Children worried because someone is very ill	65 16%	60 15%	216 53%	56 14%	13 3%

52 Comment(s)

45. Have you ever had a child tell you that someone is hurting them? Children trust Santa and most of us have never, ever had a child report abuse. But, we know that this is the most difficult thing a child may tell Santa. Have you ever been in this situation?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I have never had a child tell me of abuse	407	85.6%
Yes, I have had a child tell me of being hurt and/or abused	60	12.6%
No Responses	8	1.6%

28 Comment(s)

46. Many Santas are active year-round and sometimes perform or appear as someone other than Santa. So, other than Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, Pere Noel, Sinter Klass, etc., have you portrayed other characters or famous persons?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I only appear as Santa Claus/St. Nicholas, etc.	364	81.4%
I have appeared as a pirate	27	6.0%
I portray a cowboy, or western character	19	4.2%
I enjoy civil war re-enactment	7	1.5%
I sometimes portray someone from "Duck Dynasty"	1	<1%
I have dressed up as a Rock Star (ZZ Top or Jerry Garcia)	7	1.5%
I have participated in local pioneer/western days	16	3.5%
I have been a wizard (Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings)	21	4.6%
I compete in Hemingway Look-a-like competitions	3	<1%
Other	47	10.5%
39 Comment(s)		

47. Do you feel like ever since you became Santa you've gotten the cold or flu more frequently?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I have gotten a cold or flu more often	96	20.2%
No, I have not gotten a cold or flu more often	370	77.8%
No Responses	9	1.8%
42 Comment(s)		

48. How many times a day does a child cough or sneeze directly in your face?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
None	109	22.9%
Once or twice	207	43.5%
3 or 4 times a day	83	17.4%
5 or 6 times a day	25	5.2%
7 or 8 times a day	8	1.6%
9 or ten times a day	13	2.7%
more than a dozen times a day	9	1.8%
more than twenty times a day	3	<1%
Other	13	2.7%
No Responses	5	1.0%

49. When you work as Santa, please tell us what steps you take to help reduce the spread of colds and flu.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I have gotten or will be getting a flu shot	384	81.7%
I try to wash my hands often with soap	308	65.5%
I like to have a hand sanitizer disperser near where I work	193	41.0%
I carry a personal bottle of hand sanitizer	212	45.1%
I have my Santa set and chair wiped down and sanitized daily	76	16.1%
I encourage children to help fight germs.	61	12.9%
I sanitize my gloves and change them when needed.	331	70.4%
Other	32	6.8%
26 Comment(s)		

50. Do you get any other shots or tests prior to the holiday Season? Pneumonia, TB, etc.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I get a pneumonia shot	220	64.8%
I get an annual TB Test	49	14.4%
Other	103	30.3%
Total	339	100%
34 Comment(s)		

51. If you volunteer as a Santa for a special cause, which ones do you volunteer for? You may check more than one.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Marines Toys for Tots	91	28.0%
Make a Wish	28	8.6%
Wounded Warriors	27	8.3%
Military Units	58	17.9%
Operation Snowball or Operation Snowflake	3	<1%
Starlight Foundation	3	<1%
Autism Society	43	13.2%
Ronald McDonald House	17	5.2%
Children's Hospital	104	32.0%
Other	157	48.4%
40 Comment(s)		

52. Have you had Hospice Training? Not everyone is cut out to be a Hospice Care Giver. Some Santas have taken that step. Please let us know?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I have had hospice training.	65	13.6%
No, I have not had hospice training	325	68.4%
No Responses	85	17.8%
32 Comment(s)		

53. Marital Status

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Single	32	6.7%
Married	362	76.2%
Separated	2	<1%
Divorced	19	4.0%
No Responses	60	12.6%

54. If Married, How Many Years?

368 Responses Average 34.4 years. Oldest Married Couple 65 years

55. How Many Children do you have?

358 Responses Average 2.96 Children

56. How Many Grandchildren?

280 Responses Average 5.03 Grandchildren

57. How Many Great-Grandchildren?

53 responses Average 2.87 Great-Grand children

58. Did you Serve in the Military? If so, please select your Branch of Service.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No Military Service	251	52.8%
Air Force	36	7.5%
Army	58	12.2%
Coast Guard	1	<1%
Marines	14	2.9%
Navy	47	9.8%
Other	7	1.4%
No Responses	61	12.8%

28 Comment(s)

59. Education. Please select the highest level of School you completed. These are degrees from accredited Schools or Universities (Unfortunately not Santa School)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
High School	51	10.7%
AA Degree	65	13.6%
BA or BS Degree	101	21.2%
MA or MS Degree	62	13.0%
Some College	101	21.2%
PhD or Doctoral Degree (Accredited College or University, Not Santa School)	24	5.0%
GED	3	<1%
Other	7	1.4%
No Responses	61	12.8%

13 Comment(s)

60. Have you attended any National or International Santa Events? Select as many events as you have attended.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I have never attended a National or International Santa Meeting	197	47.5%
Discover Santa 2006 (convention ten years ago)	35	8.4%
International Santa Claus Congress - Bakken, Copenhagen (any year)	3	<1%
FORBS - National Regional Meetings in Southern California (any year)	38	9.1%
Celebrate Santa in Gatlinburg- (any Year)	64	15.4%
Claus Fest in Gatlinburg (any year)	40	9.6%
IBRBS ISC - Int'l Santa Celebration - (any year)	92	22.2%
Discover Santa 2016 in Branson	87	21.0%
Santa Family Reunion - Gatlinburg (Any year)	52	12.5%
Other	37	8.9%
21 Comment(s)		

61. Do you belong to any Santa Association?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I belong to Claus Net	160	40.6%
FORBS - Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas (California, Arizona, Nevada)	60	15.2%
IBRBS - International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas	286	72.5%
Santa America	34	8.6%
MOTS - Mystic Order of Traditional Santas	8	2.0%
Long Star Santas	26	6.5%
Palm Tree Santas	26	6.5%
Peachtree Santas	12	3.0%
Long Leaf Pine Santas	24	6.0%
MAPS - Michigan Association of Professional Santas	12	3.0%
North Star Santas	11	2.7%
Brotherhood of the Direct Descendants of Santa	8	2.0%
Buckeye Santas	8	2.0%
Clan Claus	25	6.3%
Great Plains Santas	0	0.0%
Heart of Dixie Santas	3	<1%
Virginia Santas	17	4.3%
New England Santa Society	19	4.8%
Santa Claus Oath Foundation and Hall of Fame	19	4.8%
SOS - Society of Santa	11	2.7%
Other	106	26.9%
22 Comment(s)		

62. Have you taken the Santa Claus Oath?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I have not had the opportunity to take the Santa Claus Oath	82	17.2%
Yes, I have taken the Santa Claus Oath.	332	69.8%
No Responses	61	12.8%
16 Comment(s)		

63. Santa has become more and more 'tech savvy" in recent years. Please tell us how you use the internet to connect, network and/or promote. Check all that apply.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I am not tech oriented. In fact, this Survey was almost too much for me!	31	7.5%
I am lucky if I can just use email.	86	20.8%
I have a Facebook page as Santa	234	56.7%
I use twitter	44	10.6%
I have a dedicated "Santa" web site for business	135	32.7%
I have a dedicated "Santa" web site just for children	7	1.6%
I have a dedicated "Santa" web site that is both for children and for getting business.	35	8.4%
Other	51	12.3%
29 Comment(s)		

64. Have you attended a Santa School? Select all that apply.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Charles W. Howard	57	13.8%
School4Santas - International University of Santa Claus	235	56.9%
Victor Nevada School	2	<1%
Professional Santa Claus School	52	12.5%
St. Nicholas Institute	18	4.3%
Noerr Programs Santa Training	26	6.2%
IUSC Correspondence DVD Course	13	3.1%
No, I have never attended a Santa School	92	22.2%
Other	80	19.3%

65. How many Santa Suits or outfits do you Nicolas own? Please the total number of outfits for Santa, Kris Kringle, or St..

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
1	45	9.4%
2	90	18.9%
3	98	20.6%
4	75	15.7%
5	45	9.4%
6	27	5.6%
7	15	3.1%
8	9	1.8%
9	1	<1%
10	4	<1%
None	1	<1%
Other	4	<1%
No Responses	61	12.8%
19 Comment(s)		

66. Where did you obtain your Santa Suit?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
My wife or a family friend made it for me	23	4.8%
I had a local tailor/seamstress make it for me	56	11.7%
I had someone from a theater company make it for me	7	1.4%
I bought it on the internet from a costume shop	64	13.4%
I bought if from a professional Santa Suit company (Adele, Sam Mitello, etc.)	187	39.3%
I bought it from a local costume store	26	5.4%
Other	51	10.7%
No Responses	61	12.8%
43 Comment(s)		

67. How do you keep cool when working as Santa? Select one or more answers.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I have a fan nearby, giving me a slight breeze.	200	48.3%
I wear a Commercial Cooling Vest	60	14.4%
I made my own cooling vest	12	2.8%
I do not use anything to keep cool	137	33.0%
I keep plenty of bottled water nearby.	218	52.6%
I keep my hair short.	31	7.4%
Other	26	6.2%
17 Comment(s)		

68. During the regular Holiday season, do you like to work with a full Santa Suit or be more casual? Select one answer.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I always wear a full traditional (fur down the front) Santa Suit with Hat.	218	45.8%
I always wear a full traditional Santa Suit but sometimes take my hat off	14	2.9%
I always wear a full Coca-Cola Style Suit (Buttons down the front) with Hat.	40	8.4%
I always wear a full Coca-Cola Style Suit but sometime take my hat off	7	1.4%
I work in a workshop outfit with no coat or hat	8	1.6%
I work in a workshop outfit with no coat, but with hat	7	1.4%
I switch between a traditional Santa Suit and the Workshop outfit	41	8.6%
I switch between a Coca-Cola style Suit and the Workshop outfit	26	5.4%
I generally dress in a Father Christmas outfit with hat.	8	1.6%
I generally dress as St. Nicholas	2	<1%
Other	43	9.0%
No Responses	61	12.8%
40 Comment(s)		

69. In your previous life (Before Santa) what was your main occupation?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Arts - Painter/Sculptor/Writer etc.	1	<1%
Public Service/Law Enforcement/Fire	30	6.3%
Government Employee/Federal, State or Local	36	7.5%
Elected Official	2	<1%
General Construction / Building Trades - Carpenter/Electrician/Plumber/ etc.	29	6.1%
Heavy Construction / Roads/ Sewers / Iron Worker	2	<1%
Doctor- Medical/Dental etc.	4	<1%
Finance/ Banking/ Loans/ Investments (St. Nicholas is your Patron Saint)	7	1.4%
Sales / Marketing / Advertising	40	8.4%
Education - Administrator or Teacher	35	7.3%
Entertainer / Entertainment Industry	13	2.7%
Culinary/ Restaurant Owner/ Cook/ etc.	5	1.0%
Lawyer (St. Nicholas is your Patron Saint, too!)	2	<1%
Health Professional / Nurse / Lab Technician	10	2.1%
Public Administration - City/County/State etc.	7	1.4%
Public Works	3	<1%
Aviation	8	1.6%
Career Military (Retired)	26	5.4%
Broadcasting - Radio/TV	3	<1%
Journalism	1	<1%
Other	145	30.5%
No Responses	66	13.8%

70. What does Santa (That's you) want for Christmas? We are always being asked this question.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
New Phone	9	1.8%
Electronics; Computers, etc.	19	4.0%
Sporting Goods / Recreation / Outdoors etc.	17	3.5%
Entertainment/ Big Screen TV / Audio Components etc.	4	<1%
Power Tools etc.-	19	4.0%
New Santa Suit / Accessories	90	18.9%
Travel / Vacation	144	30.3%
Other	110	23.1%
No Responses	63	13.2%
25 Comment(s)		

71. As most of us are Senior Citizens or "Boomers," part of our personal responsibility is protecting Santa's health. What do you do to keep healthy and stay in shape? Select any or all answers that apply to you.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I get regular check-up with my Doctor	365	88.1%
I practice preventive care by getting my shots (flu, pneumonia, etc.)	320	77.2%
I like to see a chiropractor or get a massage to keep well adjusted	72	17.3%
I play golf, tennis, or outdoor sports to keep fit	51	12.3%
I enjoy swimming and water exercises	57	13.7%
I am diabetic, so I watch my diet, exercise and take meds if necessary	148	35.7%
I have experienced heart problems, but all is great now	67	16.1%
My age and health have declined a bit, so my work as Santa is now less.	26	6.2%
I practice Yoga	13	3.1%
I practice Pilates	3	<1%
I practice Zumba	0	0.0%
I am a member of Silver Sneakers	57	13.7%
I practice Aerobics	6	1.4%
I exercise privately with videos / DVD's by Richard Simmons, Jane Fonda, Jack LaLanne, etc.	4	<1%
Other	103	24.8%
24 Comment(s)		

72. If you could change, fix or upgrade something about Santa, what would it be, and why? This was a written answer. A special publication will list the 170 responses. You can request that at Santa@NationalSanta.com

170 Response(s)

73. And Finally, what are Santa's Plans (Your plans) after this Holiday Season? Select as many options as you wish.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I plan on taking a well-deserved vacation	149	35.9%
I plan on attending Discover Sana 2016 in July	11	2.6%
Go Shopping at After Christmas Sales	73	17.6%
Catch up on Household Chores	135	32.6%
Visit relatives and friends	120	28.9%
I must return to a regular job	122	29.4%
Other	81	19.5%
45 Comment(s)		