



2023 Red Suit Surveys

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Compilation of survey results from the past five years.

681 Responses

1. How Old are you?

66.09 YEARS

2. How many years have you been a Santa?

15.16 YEARS

3. How much do you weigh?

254.25 POUNDS (115.32 kilos)

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Real	292	82.00%
Padding	64	18.00%

5. Where do you Live?

North East	65	18.01%
South East	92	25.48%
North Central	66	18.28%
South Central	76	21.05%
Southwest	39	10.80%
Northwest	23	6.37%

6. 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)	30	8.00%
Real Bearded (your own real beard)	326	92.00%

7. 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!

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I wear a commercial beard and wig set.	23	6.00%
I am naturally bearded, have a full set of hair and am naturally white	119	33.00%
I am naturally bearded, am bald on top and am naturally white	59	17.00%
I am naturally bearded, am totally bald and am naturally white	3	1.00%

I am naturally bearded, have a full set of hair and bleach or lighten my hair	94	26.00%
I am naturally bearded, am bald on top and bleach or lighten my hair	51	14.00%
I am naturally bearded, totally bald and bleach or lighten my beard	7	2.00%

8. What was your Beard Evolution?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I have always worn a beard and wig set.	19	5.00%
I started with a beard and wig set and now have a real beard	85	24.00%
I have had a real beard, but now just wear a beard and wig set	5	1.00%
I have always been really bearded	250	70.00%

9. Why or What made you decide to be a Santa? (since it is one of the hardest jobs you do!)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
My Church asked me	15	4.00%
My Family (Wife, Daughter, Son) asked me to do it	59	17.00%
The Local School asked me	17	5.00%
My employer asked me	32	9.00%
My Service Club asked me	15	4.00%
My Friends / Neighbors asked me	66	19.00%
I have always wanted to be Santa	73	21.00%
I have the look or size and /or mage of Santa	63	18.00%
I was interested in the business opportunities	14	4.00%

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	236	66.00%
I was reluctant, but once I put on the suit, and saw the children's faces, I knew I could do this forever.	118	33.00%

11. Where do you, or have you, appeared or worked as Santa?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I appear at Private and Corporate Parties	307	86.00%
I work for a Photo Company/Mail	164	46.00%
I appear at Charity and Non-Profit events	278	78.00%
I am retired from being Santa	5	1.00%
I appear in a Parade	136	38.00%
I appear at a Tree Lighting	186	52.00%
I have appeared as Santa in print advertising	105	29.00%
I have appeared as Santa in a local commercial - Cable	79	22.00%
I have appeared as Santa in a regional Commercial	43	12.00%
I have appeared as Santa in a national commercial	22	6.00%
I have appeared on a national network talk or reality show (not the news)	30	8.00%
I have appeared as Santa in a major motion picture	13	4.00%
I have been interviewed or featured as Santa in a documentary about Santas	63	18.00%
I visit family of deployed Military personnel	66	19.00%
I visit Wounded Warriors	20	6.00%
I volunteer as Santa for Toys for Tots	72	20.00%
I am Santa for Make a Wish	22	6.00%
I am a Hospice trained Santa	42	12.00%

I visit Senior Centers and Convalescent Homes	186	52.00%
I visit Hospitals	132	37.00%

12. If you are working this year, Where will you be working?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Volunteer Santa	28	8.00%
In Business for my self - private parties, home visits. photo studio	146	40.00%
Working for "Talk to Santa" doing video chats	5	1.00%
Working for "JingleRing" doing video chats	20	6.00%
Working for an independent video chat company	4	1.00%
Doing Video Chats on my own with Skype or Zoom.	23	6.00%
Working for Cherry Hill	20	6.00%
Working for Amusematte	4	1.00%
Work at Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's	14	4.00%
Work for an independent Photo Co or Mall (No national photo company)	16	4.00%
Work Directly for a Mall, or Department Store. no photo company	14	4.00%
Work for a Theme Park or Attraction or Stage Show	10	3.00%
I am not working this year.	46	13.00%

13. When are you starting work this year?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Prior to November 6	75	21.00%
November 6 or 7	52	14.00%
November 13 or 14	53	15.00%
November 20 or 21	39	11.00%
The day after Thanksgiving, November 27	40	11.00%
November 28 or later	91	25.00%

14. Will you be working the 2020 holiday season? Almost 19% of the Santas surveyed will not be visiting with children and families this year. 37% report they will be working for a video chat company or hosting their own Skype or Zoom visits. 18.6% will be working behind Plexiglas partitions or possibly from inside a giant snow globe! 47% plan on continuing their work visiting homes and companies.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, due to the virus and my personal condition (health, age, etc.), I am taking the year off.	46	13.61%
No, due to the virus and the social distancing restrictions placed by the government (local, regional, state), there is no Santa work in my area.	10	2.96%
No, due to my customers worries of social distancing, etc., there is no work for me	11	3.25%
Yes, I am working this year at a Mall/Photo set using a Plexiglas wall/box or wide-open set to practice social distancing	52	15.38%
Yes, I will be doing video chats via a national video conferencing company	63	18.64%
Yes, I am working, doing visits to companies/homes etc., but practicing social distancing and wearing a mask when necessary	162	47.93%
Yes, I am hosting my own video chats and conferencing via Skype and/or ZOOM	62	18.43%
Yes, I have my own photo set up with a Plexiglas partition or snow globe, etc.	11	3.25%
Yes, I am working as in past years, with no restrictions, (no masks, Plexiglas, etc.)	44	13.02%
		136.47%

15. If you are returning to work for a Mall or photo company, Was it to the same schedule/salary?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I returned to my regular work as a Mall/Photo Company Santa with no changes in schedule or salary	40	13.70%
I returned to my work as a Mall/Photo Company Santa but with a reduced schedule and salary.	28	9.60%
No Responses	224	76.70%

16. There has been an optimistic plan to have a vaccine available very soon. In fact, the Santa Association, FORBS, is working to have Santas and Mrs. Claus be added to the early vaccination list (after first responders, etc.). If a COVID-19 vaccine were available, before the holiday season, would you get vaccinated?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
YES	224	65.31%
NO	119	34.69%
89 Comment(s)		

17. 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	62	18.08%
No, I have not gotten a cold or flu more often	281	81.92%
58 Comment(s)		

18. When you work as Santa, please tell us what steps you take to help reduce the spread of colds and flu. You may select as many items as you need.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I have gotten or will be getting a flu shot	290	84.55%
I try to wash my hands often with soap	274	79.88%
This year I will be working behind Plexiglas	55	16.03%
I like to have a hand sanitizer disperser near where I work	177	51.06%
I have my Santa set and chair wiped down and sanitized throughout the day	81	23.62%
I carry a personal bottle of hand sanitizer	200	58.31%
I sanitize my gloves and change them when needed.	236	68.80%
I encourage children to help fight germs.	129	37.61%
36 Comment(s)		

19. 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	170	49.56%
I get an annual TB Test	36	10.50%
25 Comment(s)		

20. As most of us are Senior Citizens or "Boomers," part of our responsibility protecting Santa's health. What do you do to keep healthy and stay in shape?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I get regular check-ups with my Doctor	302	88.05%
I practice preventive care by getting my shots (flu, pneumonia, etc.)	286	83.38%
I like to see a chiropractor or get a massage to keep well adjusted	60	17.49%
I play golf, tennis, or outdoor sports to keep fit	53	15.45%
I enjoy swimming and water exercises	45	13.12%
I am diabetic so I watch my diet, exercise, and take meds if necessary	141	41.11%
I have experienced heart problems, but all is great now	60	17.48%

My age and health have declined a bit, so my work as Santa is now less.	23	6.71%
I practice Yoga	6	1.75%
I practice Pilates	3	0.87%
I practice Zumba	1	0.29%
I am a member of Silver Sneakers	53	15.45%
I practice Aerobics	9	2.62%
I exercise privately with videos / DVD's by Richard Simmons, Jane Fonda, Jack LaLanne, etc.	7	2.04%
44 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	89	25.95%
No	249	72.69%
36 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	48	13.99%
No	99	28.86%

23. 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	233	67.93%
Yes, mostly by inquisitive adults	85	24.78%
No, I have never experienced a puller	20	5.83%

24. What Size Boot do you wear? The average boot size is 11.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
8	10	2.80%
8.5	12	3.30%
9	19	5.30%
9.5	23	6.40%
10	41	11.40%
10.5	41	11.40%
11	58	16.10%
11.5	22	6.10%
12	43	11.90%
12.5	12	3.30%
13	38	10.50%
13.5	6	1.70%
14	13	3.60%

25. How many times a day do children step on your boots? Over 75% of the Santas report children step on their boot daily. Three percent say it is over twenty times a day. This year the odds are the percentage will be zero.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
1-5	185	51.20%
6-10	53	14.70%
11-15	19	5.30%
16-20	18	5.00%
21-25	11	3.00%
26-30	2	0.60%

More than thirty times a day	22	6.10%
29 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
1-3	208	57.60%
4-6	77	21.30%
7-9	27	7.50%
10-12	16	4.40%
13-15	0	0.0%
More than fifteen times a day	10	2.80%

27. What Percentage of Babies visiting you, Cry?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Less than 10%	211	58.40%
25%	90	24.90%
50%	28	7.80%
More than 50%	9	2.50%
24 Comment(s)		

28. What month do you begin planning for Christmas?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
January	80	22.20%
February	15	4.20%
March	22	6.10%
April	12	3.30%
May	17	4.70%
June	37	10.20%
July	32	8.90%
August	41	11.40%
September	46	12.00%
October	21	5.80%
November	14	3.90%
December	1	0.30%

29. What tasks or projects do you complete before you Start your Season? (before Thanksgiving)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I finish mailing/e-mailing my Christmas Cards and/or letters	80	22.20%
I finish all my Christmas Shopping	109	30.20%
I finish decorating inside my home	145	40.20%
I finish decorating and lighting the outside of my home	129	35.70%
Other	86	23.80%
30 Comment(s)		

30. Do you use an agent?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I use an agent to exclusive handle my bookings	23	6.40%
No, I handle all my bookings personally	198	54.80%
No, I work directly for a Mall or Photo Company	26	7.20%
Nothing exclusive. I am listed with many entertainment agents.	74	20.50%
Other	18	5.00%
40 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Chocolate Chip	153	42.40%
Rice Krispy Treat	2	0.60%
Gingerbread	7	1.90%
Oatmeal Raisin	69	19.10%
Oreo	6	1.70%
Peanut Butter	23	6.40%
Sugar Cookie	28	7.80%
Other	49	13.60%
33 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Stickers	46	12.70%
Plastic Coins	51	14.10%
Candy Canes	171	47.40%
Trading Cards	16	4.40%
Other	53	14.70%

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Milk	63	17.50%
Hot Cocoa	112	31.00%
Egg Nog	68	18.80%
Coca-Cola	29	8.00%
Coffee	18	5.00%
Tea	10	2.80%
Other	37	10.20%

34. What is your favorite Christmas Song?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Santa Claus is Coming to Town	65	18.00%
Jingle Bells	47	13.00%
White Christmas	47	13.00%
Christmas Song	10	2.80%
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	41	11.40%
Silent Night	60	16.60%
Little Drummer Boy	22	6.10%
Twelve Days of Christmas	3	0.80%
Grandma Got Run over by a Reindeer	4	1.10%
Other	38	10.50%

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Merry Christmas	328	97.00%
Happy Holidays	4	1.20%
Season's Greetings	0	0.0%
Joyous Noel	1	0.30%
Feliz Navidad	0	0.0%
Happy Hanukkah	1	0.30%
Mele Kalikimaka	0	0.0%
Other	4	1.20%

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Scrooge/A Christmas Carol (1951 with Alistair Sim)	11	3.40%
Miracle on 34th Street (1948) Edmund Gwenn	112	35.00%
A Christmas Story (Ralphie, BB Gun, 50th Anniversary this year)	19	5.90%
Santa Clause (Tim Allen)	68	21.30%
White Christmas (Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera- Ellen)	26	8.10%
Elf (Wil Farrell)	14	4.40%
Santa Claus - the Movie (David Huddleston, Dudley Moore)	2	0.60%
It's a Wonderful Life (Jimmy Stewart)	35	10.90%
Nightmare Before Christmas (Tim Burton)	4	1.30%
Holiday Inn (Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire)	5	1.60%
Other	42	13.10%

37. What does Santa (That's you) want for Christmas?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
New Phone	18	5.40%
Electronics; Computers, etc.	16	4.80%
Sporting Goods / Recreation / Outdoors etc.	14	4.20%
Entertainment/ Big Screen TV / Audio Components etc.	5	1.50%
Power Tools etc.-	21	6.30%
New Santa Suit / Accessories	51	15.20%
Travel / Vacation	102	30.40%
Other	109	32.40%
45 Comment(s)		

38. 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 biofuel.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Compact Car	28	8.40%
Mid-Sized Car	50	14.90%
All-electric Car	1	0.30%
Bio-fuel Vehicle	0	0.0%
Hybrid (Electric/Gas) vehicle	11	3.30%
Pick Up Truck	83	24.80%
SUV	114	34.00%
Van	17	5.10%
Other	31	9.30%
36 Comment(s)		

39. 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	124	36.90%
I keep it under 100 miles	95	28.30%
I have traveled up to 150 miles	50	14.90%
I have traveled up to 200 miles	18	5.40%
I have traveled over 250 miles to make a visit	40	11.90%
Other	9	2.70%
19 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Heated Seats	34	10.10%
Sun/Moon Roof	13	3.90%
GPS	35	10.40%
Blue Tooth for Phone	23	6.90%
Ice Chest (for cold water & snacks)	38	11.30%
Personal Driver / Navigator / Assistant	87	26.00%
Mobile Internet	37	11.00%
Other	68	20.30%
20 Comment(s)		

41. 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	23	6.90%
I own and ride a Gold Wing	2	0.60%
I ride a Can-Am Spyder	1	0.30%
I like to ride but do not own a motorcycle	57	17.00%
I do not ride a bike	224	66.90%
Other	28	8.40%

42. Do you appear in a community parade? Do you get paid to appear?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I do not appear in any parade	202	60.50%
Yes, I volunteer to appear in a parade	63	18.90%
Yes, I am paid to appear in a parade	69	20.70%

43. Do you appear or preside over any Tree Lighting Ceremonies? Do you get paid to appear?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, I do not appear at any tree lighting	161	50.30%
Yes, I volunteer to appear at a tree lighting ceremony	47	14.70%
Yes, I get paid to appear at a tree lighting ceremony	126	39.40%

44. If working at a Mall, how many hours a day will you be working?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
4 hours or less a day	28	14.60%
5 hours a day	18	9.40%
6 hours a day	22	11.50%
7 hours a day	5	2.60%
8 hours a day	21	10.90%
9 hours a day	8	4.20%
10 hours a day	7	3.60%
11 hours a day	0	0.0%
12 hours a day	1	0.50%
More than 12 hours a day	1	0.50%
Other	81	42.20%

45. If working at a Mall, What is your average hourly rate?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
\$10 or less an hour	8	6.70%

\$11 to \$15 an hour	1	0.80%
\$16 to \$20 an hour	9	7.60%
\$21 to \$25 an hour	12	10.10%
\$26 to \$30 an hour	10	8.40%
\$31 to \$35 an hour	16	13.40%
\$36 to \$40 an hour	10	8.40%
\$41 to \$45 an hour	9	7.60%
\$46 to \$50 an hour	9	7.60%
Over \$51 an hour	35	29.40%

46. 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	99	35.70%
After Thanksgiving	119	43.00%
The week before Christmas	7	2.50%
Other	52	18.80%

47. As an independent Santa, how many total hours will you work during the entire holiday season? (Please be realistic and give us only the hours you will work or appear. We want real numbers, nothing inflated. This info will be compiled and no details on your actual work will be given out.) Do not include time for driving, dressing or preparation.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
10 hours or less	15	4.90%
10 to 20 hours	22	7.10%
21 to 30 hours	22	7.10%
31 to 40 hours	28	9.10%
41 to 50 hours	27	8.70%
51 to 60 hours	21	6.80%
61 to 70 hours	17	5.50%
71 to 80 hours	19	6.10%
81 to 90 hours	13	4.20%
91 to 100 hours	17	5.50%
Over 100 hours	86	27.80%
Other	22	7.10%
31 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
\$100	56	19.20%
\$125	55	18.90%
\$150	60	20.60%
\$175	23	7.90%
\$200	26	8.90%
Other	71	24.40%
46 Comment(s)		

49. 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.	266	73.70%
I read a book or tell stories	260	72.00%
I can sing songs	132	36.60%
I can perform a little magic	54	15.00%
I play a musical instrument (explain below)	11	3.00%
I work with puppets (explain below)	10	2.80%

Other 14 3.90%
31 Comment(s)

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Less than 24	82	25.00%
25 to 50	70	21.30%
50 to 100	66	20.10%
100 to 150	48	14.60%
200	11	3.40%
250	14	4.30%
300	14	4.30%
350	6	1.80%
400	4	1.20%
450	2	0.60%
500	5	1.50%
550	1	0.30%
600	0	0.0%
650	0	0.0%
700	0	0.0%
750	0	0.0%
800	2	0.60%
850	1	0.30%
900	0	0.0%
More than 1000 children every day.	2	0.60%

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
30 seconds	5	1.50%
one minute	27	8.30%
90 seconds	44	13.50%
two minutes	91	27.80%
more than two minutes	160	48.90%

52. 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. The scale is 1 to 5 with 1 being Santa is hearing it much less than previous years and 5 being Santa is 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 = respondents Bottom= %	1	2	3	4	5
Children wishing for help to reverse a Divorce or Separation	50 18%	32 12%	162 60%	25 9%	3 1%
Children worried about the economy	79 30%	44 17%	113 42%	26 10%	4 2%
Children wishing for a Parent to find a job	47 18%	30 11%	121 46%	58 22%	7 3%
Children wishing to have a home	58 23%	39 15%	123 48%	33 13%	3 1%
Children worried that Santa won't be able to find them	23 8%	26 9%	150 54%	68 24%	11 4%

Children worried because a loved-one died	34	32	157	42	4
	13%	12%	58%	16%	1%
Children worried because someone is very ill	26	24	147	69	7
	10%	9%	54%	25%	3%
29 Comments					

53. 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	277	84.70%
Yes, I have had a child tell me of being hurt and/or abused	50	15.30%
23 Comment(s)		

54. 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 Klaus, etc., have you portrayed other characters or famous persons? (Select all that apply)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I only appear as Santa Claus/St. Nicholas, etc.	253	71.50%
I have appeared as a pirate	20	5.60%
I portray a cowboy, or western character	13	3.70%
I enjoy civil war re-enactment	3	0.80%
I sometimes portray someone from "Duck Dynasty"	0	0.0%
I have dressed up as a Rock Star (ZZ Top or Jerry Garcia)	2	0.60%
I have participated in local pioneer/western days	12	3.40%
I have been a wizard (Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings)	17	4.80%
I compete in Hemingway Look-a-like competitions	3	0.80%
Other	31	8.80%
18 Comment(s)		

55. If you volunteer as a Santa for a special cause, which ones do you volunteer for? You may check more than one. You may also check other and list a charity.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Marines Toys for Tots Foundation	77	25.20%
Make a Wish	35	11.40%
Wounded Warriors	21	6.90%
Military Units	46	15.00%
Operation Snowball or Operation Snowflake	1	0.30%
Starlight Foundation	1	0.30%
Autism Society	36	11.80%
Ronald McDonald House	18	5.90%
Children's Hospital	71	23.20%
34 Comment(s)		

56. 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. Just a simple yes or no. If you have had other Training, please list it in the comments box.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I have had hospice training.	71	22.70%
No, I have not had hospice training	242	77.30%
23 Comment(s)		

57. Marital Status

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Single	25	25.2%
Married	280	276.7%
Separated	3	3.0%
Divorced	18	18.1%
No Responses		0.0%
Total	99	100.00%

58. If Married, How Many Years? Please numbers only!

Almost 35 years - 34.96

59. How Many Children do you have? Numbers only

2.5 Children

60. How Many Grandchildren? Numbers only

3.44 Grandchildren

61. How Many Great-Grandchildren?

0.44 Great-Grandchildren.

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No Military Service	204	62.20%
Air Force	26	7.90%
Army	37	11.30%
Coast Guard	2	0.65%
Marines	12	3.70%
Navy	37	11.30%
Other	10	3.00%
18 Comment(s)		

63. 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	40	12.20%
AA Degree	56	17.10%
BA or BS Degree	81	24.70%
MA or MS Degree	41	12.50%
Some College	78	23.80%
PhD or Doctoral Degree (Accredited College or University, Not Santa School)	22	6.70%
GED	4	1.20%
Other	6	1.80%
19 Comment(s)		

64. Do you belong to any Santa Association?

	Number of Response(s)
I belong to Claus Net	101
FORBS - Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas (California, Arizona, Nevada)	44
IBRBS - International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas	209
Santa America	18
MOTS - Mystic Order of Traditional Santas	3
Lone Star Santas	33

Palm Tree Santas	20
Peachtree Santas	10
Longy Leaf Pine Santas	12
Lone Star Santas	14
North Star Santas	12
Brotherhood of the Direct Descendants of Santa	2
Buckeye Santas	9
Clan Claus	20
Great Plains Santas	0
Heart of Dixie Santas	2
Virginia Santas	13
New England Santa Society	9
Santa Claus Oath Foundation and Hall of Fame	13
SOS - Society of Santa	3
Other	74
22 Comment(s)	

65. 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	50	15.30%
Yes, I have taken the Santa Claus Oath.	277	84.70%
12 Comment(s)		

66. 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!	22	6.70%
I am lucky if I can just use email.	77	23.50%
I have a Facebook page as Santa	157	48.00%
I use twitter	34	10.40%
I have a dedicated "Santa" web site for business	103	31.50%
I have a dedicated "Santa" web site just for children	7	2.10%
I have a dedicated "Santa" web site that is both for children and for getting business.	30	9.20%
Other	51	15.60%
22 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Charles W. Howard	50	15.6%
School4Santas - International University of Santa Claus	210	64.6%
SATBOBS	22	6.8%
Professional Santa Claus School	40	12.5%
St. Nicholas Institute	10	3.1%
Victor Nevada School	3	<1%
IUSC/School4Santas Home Study Course	25	7.8%
Santa Claus Conservatory	56	17.5%
No, I have never attended any Santa Training	46	14.0%
Other	67	20.9%

68. How many Santa Suits or outfits do you own?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
1	38	11.60%
2	63	19.20%
3	65	19.80%

4	50	15.20%
5	51	15.50%
6	31	9.50%
7	15	4.60%
8	5	1.50%
9	4	1.20%
10	3	0.90%
None	1	0.30%
Other	2	3.70%
15 Comment(s)		

69. Where did you obtain your Santa Suit?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
My wife or a family friend made it for me	25	7.60%
I had a local tailor/seamstress make it for me	43	13.10%
I had someone from a theater company make it for me	8	2.40%
I bought it on the internet from a costume shop	58	17.00%
I bought it from a professional Santa Suit company (Adele, Sam Mitello, etc.)	142	43.30%
I bought it from a local costume store	20	6.10%
Other	32	9.80%
39 Comment(s)		

70. 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.	141	44.10%
I wear a Commercial Cooling Vest	54	16.90%
I made my own cooling vest	7	2.20%
I do not use anything to keep cool	125	39.10%
I keep plenty of bottled water nearby.	172	53.80%
I keep my hair short.	21	6.60%
Other	14	4.40%
20 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I always wear a full traditional (fur down the front) Santa Suit with Hat.	169	51.50%
I always wear a full traditional Santa Suit but sometimes take my hat off	20	6.10%
I always wear a full Coca-Cola Style Suit (Buttons down the front) with Hat.	28	8.50%
I always wear a full Coca-Cola Style Suit but sometime take my hat off	5	1.50%
I work in a workshop outfit with no coat or hat	3	0.90%
I work in a workshop outfit with no coat, but with hat	6	1.80%
I switch between a traditional Santa Suit and the Workshop outfit	51	15.50%
I switch between a Coca-Cola style Suit and the Workshop outfit	14	4.30%
I generally dress in a Father Christmas outfit with hat.	3	0.90%
I generally dress as St. Nicholas	2	0.60%
Other	27	8.20%
31 Comment(s)		

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

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Arts - Painter/Sculptor/Writer etc.	3	0.90%
Public Service/Law Enforcement/Fire	12	3.70%
Government Employee/Federal, State or Local	28	8.70%

Elected Official	1	0.30%
General Construction / Building Trades - Carpenter/Electrician/Plumber/ etc.	22	6.80%
Heavy Construction / Roads/ Sewers / Iron Worker	6	1.90%
Doctor- Medical/Dental etc.	4	1.20%
Finance/ Banking/ Loans/ Investments (St. Nicholas is your Patron Saint)	11	3.40%
Sales / Marketing / Advertising	45	13.90%
Education - Administrator or Teacher	26	8.00%
Entertainer / Entertainment Industry	5	1.50%
Culinary/ Restaurant Owner/ Cook/ etc.	5	1.50%
Lawyer (St. Nicholas is your Patron Saint, too!)	1	0.30%
Health Professional / Nurse / Lab Technician	9	2.80%
Public Administration - City/County/State etc.	1	0.30%
Public Works	1	0.30%
Aviation	4	1.20%
Career Military (Retired)	11	3.40%
Broadcasting - Radio/TV	4	1.20%
Journalism	0	0.0%
Other	124	38.40%

73. If you could change, fix, or upgrade something about Santa, what would it be, and why?

98 Written Responses (available upon request)

74. 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	113	35.30%
I plan on attending Discover Sana 2016 in July	5	1.60%
Go Shopping at After Christmas Sales	36	11.30%
Catch up on Household Chores	86	26.90%
Visit relatives and friends	97	23.80%
I must return to a regular job	76	18.10%
Other	58	18.1%
31 Comment(s)		

THIS SURVEY IS A CULMINATION OF SURVEY QUESTIONS ASKED IN PAST YEARS, 2017, 2019, 2021, & 2022, PRODUCED VIA CONSTANT CONTACT DURING THE FALL MONTHS OF THOSE YEARS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE SURVEYS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT SANTA TIM CONNAGHAN AT: SANTA@NATIONALSANTA.COM OR PHONE/TEXT: 631-871-4901