

Feeding an Army

HOW TO MAKE A BIG CHRISTMAS DINNER MORE MANAGEABLE

Christmas dinner can be one of the best times for your family to make lasting, happy memories.

If you have a larger family, then putting on a successful Christmas dinner can be a challenge. Here are some Christmas dinner ideas for a large group that you can use to make the experience pleasant for everyone and easier on you.

BRING A DISH

One of the ways that you can take some of the pressure off of yourself in preparing a large Christmas dinner is to get the rest of the group involved as well.

Arrange to have Christmas dinner participants bring smaller parts of the meal so that you can focus on the main portions. Side dishes such as mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce can be the responsibility of other dinner attendees.

This allows you to focus on preparing the ideal Christmas turkey or ham.

SIMPLICITY

When Christmas dinner is for a smaller group, it makes sense to try to add new menu items to see how they go over. But when the group is large, it is best to keep the menu as simple as possible.

When you are trying to prepare several items for the main course of a large meal, you may find yourself

running out of time as the guests arrive. Bring the meal down to the basics such as turkey, potatoes, stuffing, corn and cranberry sauce, and make Christmas dinner a more manageable situation.

BUFFET

Seating a large group for Christmas dinner can be just as much of a challenge as preparing the meal.

One way to insure that everyone finds a place to sit and enjoy the food they want to eat is to have a buffet-style dinner.

Place the plates, silverware, napkins, drinks and food out on the main table, and allow the group to serve themselves. This can also help to create a more casual atmosphere that would make the dinner more enjoyable for everyone.

MULTIPLE TABLES

If you prefer to have people seated for a large Christmas dinner, then set up more than one table. This will allow everyone to be able to spread out and enjoy the meal while still being seated at a proper table place setting.

It's a good idea to get matching tablecloths for the two tables so they'll be similar visually, tying both eating areas together.

