JAKE's TOY MANIA!

For Boston-area families in need who are looking for help to make the holidays happier for their children.

2026 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To participate in Jake's Toy Mania, you need to sign up IN PERSON in advance AND bring all the required documentation with you. Please read this carefully so that you have everything you need when you come in to sign up. **Sign-up Location: 38 BROMFIELD STREET in BOSTON (Downtown Crossing). Sign-ups will be held on Friday, Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. on these dates:**

Friday November 6th AND Saturday November 7th
Friday November 13th AND Saturday November 14th
Friday November 20th AND Saturday November 21st
Friday November 27th AND Saturday November 28th

AND

Friday December 4th AND Saturday December 5th
Friday December 11th AND Saturday December 12th
PLEASE BRING ONE LARGE TJMAXX SHOPPIBG BAG WITH YOU FOR FREEBIES.

THE FINAL DATE FOR SIGNUPS IS DECEMBER 12th. NO EXCEPTIONS

We have changed the way we do things this year… Please read carefully.

- Number of families per age group capped at 150
- Guaranteed to receive TWO gifts per children ages 0-11
- One gift card per child ages 12-16 – Born on 2010 and or turning 16 this December
- No parking on Bromfield Street – **YOUR CAR** will be towed
- If your shelter is going to the party **YOU CANNOT SIGN UP.**

REQUIREMENTS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

TO REGISTER FOR JAKE'S TOY MANIA, YOU MUST HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **Your ID**. Must be a picture ID issued by the state of Massachusetts or a passport. It's okay if the ID is expired. If you have an out-of-state picture ID, you must show proof of Massachusetts residency.
  - Adoptive parents must have court papers
  - Grandparents, foster parents, stepparents and others are eligible for Jake's Toy Mania long as they have legal custody of the children they're signing up and have papers stating that they are legal guardians. Foster papers must be current: issued within the last 60 days.
- **Birth certificates for all eligible children**
  - Hospital/mother's note acceptable for a newborn
  - **Children over the age of 16 are not eligible**
- **MassHealth cards for each child**
  - Only MassHealth and affiliate cards are accepted as proof of need. (**If the affiliate card does not say MassHealth or include the MassHealth number, it will not be accepted.)**

- If you don't have the cards themselves, MassHealth information can be obtained from your child's physician or from MassHealth and must be no more than 60 days old.

- **Proof of residency**. If you are renting subsidized housing, you must have a CURRENT lease with all your CHILDREN's names typed **OR** a letter on official letterhead from housing or from your management office. If you are in a shelter, you must have a letter from your shelter, on shelter letterhead, showing that you and your children are living there. The shelter letter must be 30 days old or less.
  - A handwritten letter from your landlord will not be accepted
  - A lease or letter from housing with your children's names handwritten in will not be accepted
  - The lease must be current, i.e., it must be no older than 24 months.
  - Those who own their own homes are NOT eligible for Jake's Toy Mania
  - Those who are living with family or friends but do not have a lease are NOT eligible for Jake's Toy Mania

Copies of the above documents, or pictures on your phone, are acceptable, as long as they are legible.

Once you have signed up, we'll give you a card that shows the time slot and date for pick up. You MUST bring your card with you when you come for pick up. (Please take a picture with your phone to make sure you have a copy.)

Your pickup date depends on the ages of your children:
Saturday, December 19th Between 12pm and 6pm – ALL OF YOUR CHILDREN ARE Newborn to 6 years old
Sunday, December 20th Between 12pm and 6pm – ALL OF YOUR CHILDREN ARE 7 years to 11 years old
Monday, December 21st – MULTIPLE AGE GROUPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Signing up:

What if I do not have one of the items above, can I substitute something else?

No. No substitutions can be made.

Can I register if I live in a congregate or scattered shelter?

Yes. You can register for Jake's Toy Mania as long as you meet the requirements, including a letter from your shelter (on shelter letterhead) that is 30 days old or less stating that you and your children live there. *Note that If you are in a shelter that is participating in any other Christmas in the City program, you are NOT eligible to participate in Jake's Toy Mania.*

Can I register if I own my own home, or live with a family member?

No. You are not eligible for Jake's Toy Mania.

What if I don't have a current lease?

A current lease is an absolute requirement. A current lease is one that is no more than 24 months old on the day that you sign up.

Does my newborn have to be on my lease?

No. Children 24 months of age or younger do not have to be on the lease.

Are children between the ages of 12-16 eligible?

Yes, you can sign up your children who are 16 and younger. For older children (12-16) we cannot guarantee that we will have a gift card for them. (Most of our toy donations are for younger children.)

Picking up:

Can someone else pick up the toys if I cannot come in?

If the parent/guardian who signed up cannot come in to pick up toys another person can do the pickup as long as they were present during the time of registration and were designated as a possible alternative person to do the pickup.

What if I miss the day and/or time of my pickup, will I be able to pick up another day?

If you miss the day and or time of your pickup, you may come at the end of your assigned day and pick up at closing time (6 PM). Keep in mind that we will not be able to serve you until all others have been served. If you cannot come at 6 p.m. on your assigned day, please email jakestoymania@christmasinthecity.com and we will get back to you with new time and date that will hopefully accommodate your needs.

How long is the wait to pick up?

The short answer is anywhere from 2 to 4 hours. And here is why:

1. We allow parents to take their time "shopping" for the kids.
2. We serve a large number of folks in a short period of time.
3. People will start lining up 2-3 hours before we open.

Can I bring my child with me to pick up?

NO, YOU CAN NOT BRING YOUR CHILDREN WITH YOU WHEN YOU COME TO PICK UP THE TOYS.

Is there a restroom available?

There are no PUBLIC RESTROOMS AVAILABLE.

How will I be able to carry the toys?

We will provide you with a large bag to hold your toys. BECAUSE OF SPACE AND SECURITY MEASURES YOU CANNOT BRING A SHOPPING CART, BACKPACK, STROLLER, OR SIMILAR ITEM IN WITH YOU TO PICK UP THE TOYS. AND ONLY ONE PERSON PER REGISTRATION CARD IS ALLOWED INTO 34 BROMFIELD STREET FOR PICKUP. IF ANOTHER PERSON COMES WITH YOU, THEY CAN WAIT OUTSIDE FOR YOU WITH THE CART, BACKPACK, ETC.

Any further questions? Please check our website, christmasinthecity.org for updates, or email jakestoymania@christmasinthecity.org.