

Greetings from Santa Claus!

Hi skiers and snowboarders! This is Santa emailing you from the North Pole. Checking the weather, I see there's lots of snow headed your way. So I'm going to fill my sack with winter gear.

First, I'll load up with lots of helmets. They provide important head protection, and are also warm and dry. In fact, I'm going to wear a helmet when I ride my sleigh this year. Mrs. Claus says "no helmet, no sleigh ride". She likes to nag me, but she's always right!

Next I'll load up with high quality fleece and wool garments. When I ride my sleigh on a cold Christmas Eve, I wear several layers. Keeps me toasty and dry. If I get too warm going down chimneys and drinking hot cocoa, I just take off a layer.

My hands used to get cold holding the reins, giving hand signals to Rudolph, and waving at all the people from my sleigh. Now I wear insulated mittens, like skiers and snowboarders do. For kids, they are so important since little hands get cold very easily. I'm putting a lot of insulated mittens in my sack.

I used to wear a red suit with a fur collar. But when the collar got wet, I was cold. Now I wear a red technical parka with a neck gaiter. To protect my eyes and face from snow and cold winds, I wear goggles. With my helmet, goggles, and neck gaiter I look just like a Rokka Ski School instructor! I wish I could ski and snowboard as well as they do. On the other hand, I can ride a sleigh thru the air, pulled by reindeer!

I hope everybody gets the right size, but my sack can only carry so much. In some cases, you might have boots, clothes and gear that don't quite fit right. I know kids grow fast and it's hard to keep up. That's OK, as long as you're warm, dry, and safe. Your Rokka instructor is aware of common sense realities. However, if you need to change something because the fit affects safety or health, your instructor will let you know.

If you get new boots and skis, please make sure the boots fit properly in the skis before you show up for class. I only deliver the presents. It's up to you to make sure it fits. Good ski shops like Sturtevant's, Alpine Hut, and World Cup Ski can fit your boots to your skis, and check the binding release settings.

I'm sure glad folks leave me hot cocoa and cookies when I'm out delivering presents. Mrs. Claus tells me it's important for me to stay nourished and drink enough liquids.

Well, I better get back to my office. Christmas is coming soon, and I have to look at all the letters I get from kids letting me know what they want. Have a very Merry Christmas and a great ski and snowboard season!

Ho Ho Ho from santa@northpole.com