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Holiday Walk offers children's activities

By **Rebecca Wyatt**, OU Web Writer

Meadow Brook Hall has a variety of interactive activities for children throughout the Holiday Walk to make their trip to the hall memorable.

For the second year, children participating in the Holiday Walk have the opportunity to take part in an old German tradition, the pickle hunt. In Germany, the child who finds the pickle hidden on a Christmas tree receives extra gifts and good wishes for the year. Meadow Brook Hall has expanded that tradition by hiding a pickle in each of 10 large trees located throughout the tour. Children are given a checklist and at the end of the tour they can turn in the card to win prizes.

The pickle hunt was a success last year, said Shannon O'Berski, education coordinator.

"Many children purchased a pickle ornament in our gift shop to start the tradition at their own homes," O'Berski said.

In the ballroom, children can write a letter to Santa and put it in his mailbox. If the children are good, Santa might even reply.

On the weekends, children can visit with Santa in the ballroom from noon to 4 p.m. They also can create and decorate holiday cards and make snowman ornaments.

"The activities are a way to engage the children so the children and the parents can both enjoy the tour," O'Berski said.

The activities are included in the price of admission for the Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$5 for children under 17 accompanied by an adult, \$12 for OU affiliates with ID and children under 2 are free. The self-guided Holiday Walk tours are offered daily until Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last tour starting at 4 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 370-3140 or visit the **Meadow Brook Hall** Web site.

SUMMARY

Meadow Brook Hall has a variety of interactive activities for children throughout the Holiday Walk to make their trip to the hall memorable. Activities include writing letters to Santa, visiting Santa, creating and decorating holiday cards and snowman ornaments, and a pickle hunt, which is an old German tradition at Christmas.

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