



# Christmas Day Caroling at the V.A.

Registration: 8:45am

Orientation 8:50am

Caroling 9am

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What should I wear?

Wear something fun, comfortable, casual, and warm. There are usually many Santa hats and reindeer antlers. We often go outside to get to the next building so you want to bring a jacket to wear. ***Please do not wear a full Santa suit; the people in Santa suits are the workers managing the gift carts.***

### 2. How long does it last? Do I have to stay the whole time?

The last caroling takes place around 12 or 12:30 for those that go to the general wings. Many people leave early, but please wait until we are walking to another wing before departing.

### 3. What should I bring?

Leave your valuables at home to make things easier. There is a place to lock up valuables, but *if you want to leave early take your belongings with you*. You can download the carol book on the website at [www.give4good.net](http://www.give4good.net) if you want to practice but ***we will provide carol books on Christmas morning.***

### 4. Where do we sing?

We meet in the auditorium for orientation and to practice, then we split into two groups. 20-25 singers go to the Mental Health wings (must be 16 or over to be a part of this group). The rest of the people, 100+, go through the rest of the hospital caroling the patients. We sing standing outside the rooms of the veterans. The mental health group joins up with the other group halfway through. We start at the first song in the carol book and sing through to the end, then start over again.

### 5. I'm not a singer. Can I still come?

Everyone is welcome! Feel free to make a joyful noise or to go into the rooms and visit with veterans. Some people like to go in and greet the veterans more than singing. It is up to the individual to choose what feels right for them.

### 6. I have a musical instrument. Will there be sheet music?

The most pieces have the melody and many have 4-part harmony. Some instruments could play other parts than the melody (i.e. the alto, tenor or bass line) to add richness to our musical offering. All pieces have guitar chords.

### 7. Do you need any help?

We need people to gather the carol books as folk leave, traffic cops, calm caring folk for singing in mental health, pushers of wheelchairs, and remote arm wavers.

***Section leaders and those with instruments should try to be there at 8:30 so we can practice, assign groups, and figure out logistics before orientation.***

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**Auditorium, Building 101, Palo Alto VA Health Care System, 3801 Miranda Avenue, 94304**