



# Operation Santa's Sleigh December 23, 2023



Operation Santa Sleigh 2023 is a state-wide event by Light Ohio Blue and their partners at the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio State Highway Patrol, International Association of Firefighters, State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, Santa's Hide-A-Way Village, and the many public safety agencies participating.

Operation Santa's Sleigh will occur in eight cities in Ohio simultaneously on December 23, 2023. All the Children's Hospitals and our two state Veterans homes, as well as local hospitals that house children and veterans, will be visited by first responders to spread holiday cheer.

Akron Children's Hospital Police is coordinating the Akron Event. Those wishing to participate should go to [2023 Operation Santa's Sleigh – Akron – Light Ohio Blue](#) and register your department with the number of vehicles participating.

Public parking is available at Akron Children's Hospital so spectators can watch as the motorcade welcomes Santa with their lights and sirens. Once the AirBear helicopter is in view, please silence your siren but keep all emergency lights on.

The children and parents in the hospital will be watching, and there will be some well-known characters spreading holiday cheer to the children and officers too. Light refreshments will be served in the Kay Jewelers Pavilion Atrium for all motorcade participants.

The route is attached below, but for safety reasons, please do not share with Media or on Social Media any earlier than December 21. Special thanks to Silver Lake Police Department for their partnership on the starting location for this year

For more information, please contact one of the following:

**Lieutenant WK Heilmeier**  
Akron Children's Hospital Police  
wheilmeier@akronchildrens.org

**Lieutenant Michael Lott**  
Akron Children's Hospital Police  
mlott@akronchildrens.org

**Officer James Garland**  
Akron Children's Hospital Police  
JGarlandJr@akronchildrens.org

**Route:**

**Meet at Silver Lake Police Department, 2961 Kent Rd, Silver Lake, Ohio at 1830 hours**

Left/West SR59/Kent Road  
Stay on Front Street/2nd Street  
Right/West on Broad Blvd  
Left/South on 23rd (past Western Reserve)  
Left/East on Sackett  
Right/South on State Street  
Keep South on N. Main Street  
Left/East on E. Market Street  
Left/North on Fountain  
Right/East on N. Forge  
Through Summa Turnaround (past Akron City)  
Right/East on N. Forge  
Right/South on N. Adams  
Right/West on E. Market  
Left/South on S. High  
Right/West on W. Bartges  
Right/North on Dart  
Right on Akron General Ave (past Cleveland Clinic)  
Left/West on W. Exchange  
Right/North on Dart  
Right/West on W. Buchtel  
Left/North on Locust  
Right/East on W. State  
Right/South on W. Bowery  
Right/West on W. Exchange  
Pull into the Kay Jewelers Pavilion Turnaround (Locust/W. Exchange) single file and wrap around the park in the far-right lane of W Exchange Street.

**End at Akron Children's Hospital, One Perkins Square, Akron, Ohio. Conclusion by 2030 hours.**