

SHOP LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS | GIFT IDEAS



Local Gift Cards

If you're totally stumped for a gift selection, there's nothing wrong with snagging a gift card and tossing it in a greeting card. There's no rule, however, that says you have to buy a card from a chain restaurant or big box store. Think local for an easy gift solution.

CHECK LOCAL SHOPS

Most local stores have started offering gift card options for customers, be it a rechargeable card or just a gift certificate signed by the manager. Regardless, it can make for a more personal gift than just a generic gift card. If you find a store you think your loved one would really like but can't find the perfect gift, just get a gift card and let them enjoy shopping and picking out their favorite items on your dime. A gift card to a local store can be a much more personal gift, and it also takes some of the guesswork out of gift-buying. Plus, it supports a local business.

DON'T FORGET RESTAURANTS

Most local restaurants also offer gift cards, and a free lunch is a great gift. Aim high on this one; pick out a place

you really think they'll like, and let them indulge with a nice meal as a gift from you.

Be it a great, highly rated local restaurant or a beloved hole in the wall that has the best burgers in town, get creative and choose something that complements the taste of the recipient.

COFFEE SHOPS, BAKERIES

If you want to offer a bit more of a snack, pick up a gift certificate to a local coffee shop or bakery. Just make sure the place is good (maybe test out a few pastries before you pick up the card). A \$20 or \$30 gift card can stretch a good distance at a coffee house or bakery.

Try to think of a place that might be on your friend's commute, as well, so they'll have a chance to use it and take full advantage of your clever gift.

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