

## Silly Questions and Straight Answers

Elf Frank Myrrh: Greetings and welcome to the North Pole Podcast, I'm Elf Frank Myrrh of North Pole Radio News. Before things get even busier at the North Pole in advance of Santa's launch we thought it best to catch up with the questions being sent in to Elf Crash Murphy, my radio partner and the International Director of Santa Trackers. Crash has had tens of thousands of questions submitted via SantaUpdate.com this season and they come from all over the world, from believers old and young, some come from school teachers, others come from parents and some of these questions are...well, a little silly. But we're taking them all and we've run them through a filter of sorts. The staff of the North Pole Radio News team, which you'll hear on the Tracking Santa around the World radio show this year, has filtered these questions and have selected the best amongst them for Crash to answer. They are in no particular order, so we don't know how this episode is going to play out because Crash is sure to be surprised by some of these. And that, of course, will give us the usual candid responses we have come to know and love from Elf Crash Murphy. Crash, are you ready to do this?

Elf Crash: Fire away, Frank. Let me have it.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Ok, first question, comes from a believer in Sector 5, in the United States, somewhere in Pennsylvania, and his name is Cody. He asks, is it true that Santa's poop smells like candy canes?

Elf Crash: What the – Frank! That's the first question, the best question, that you can ask me?

Elf Frank Myrrh: I said they were random.

Elf Crash: Which of your radio news guys thought that was a good question?

Elf Frank Myrrh: Elf Red Stocking, of course.

Elf Crash: Of course. Next question.

Elf Frank Myrrh: You're not going to answer that?

Elf Crash: I can't answer that. If I say no, it implies I've actually smelled Santa's...stuff. If I say yes, it means Santa has candy cane smelling poop. It's a trick question and I'm not going there. Surely there has to be better questions than this.

Elf Frank Myrrh: I said they were silly.

Elf Crash: That one is more than silly, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Ok, here's one that is more up your alley. Desiree of Somerset, England sends in this question. She wants to know, if she sees Santa in her home in the UK, should she address him as Santa or as Father Christmas, as many people call him in that part of the world?

Elf Crash: Yes, that's a proper question, Frank. Thank goodness for Desiree. I would say you can call him anything you like. Santa really doesn't mind one way or the other. He loves being called by both names. So whatever you're comfortable with, Desiree. Good question.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Dijo, who is a tracker elf from Missouri in Sector 5, wants to know what YOUR favorite cookie is?

Elf Crash: Not that it matters but my favorite cookie is a praline pecan, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Really? What wouldn't that matter?

Elf Crash: Nobody makes cookies for me, Frank. I don't know why anyone would want to know what kind of cookie I like.

Elf Frank Myrrh: I think Dijo just wants to know more about you. He asked all kinds of questions about you in particular. He's a tracker elf, and you're the world's most notorious Santa tracker and their leader, I think his questions are good one. For example, Dijo wants to know how tall you are.

Elf Crash: He does? I'm 5' 8", Frank. Does the radio make me sound taller than that?

Elf Frank Myrrh: Actually, you sound shorter than that on the radio.

Elf Crash: I do?

Elf Frank Myrrh: Yeah, the first time I heard you I thought, man, this guy's got to be 4'11".

Elf Crash: No way.

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Elf Frank Myrrh: Yeah, I'm just kidding, Crash. Sophia, who appears to be from San Francisco or thereabouts, wants to know if Santa's elves should be paid minimum wage.

Elf Crash: Minimum wage? What's that?

Elf Frank Myrrh: I don't have the faintest idea. Do you think Sophia understands that elves at the North Pole don't get paid in money? That they get paid in cookies?

Elf Crash: Everybody knows that, don't they? Sophia must be new.

Elf Frank Myrrh: She could be. Or she could be running for office.

Elf Crash: Good point. What else you got?

Elf Frank Myrrh: Charlotte, in New Jersey in Sector 5, wants to know what scout elves do at the North Pole?

Elf Crash: What kind of scout elves? There are many scouts.

Elf Frank: She doesn't say. But maybe that's the answer to the question, Crash. Maybe if she knew the different kinds of scouts she might better understand.

Elf Crash: Well, there are weather scouts. Location scouts. Tracker scouts. Talent scouts. Boy scouts. Girl scouts. Cub scouts. And, of course, the famous polar bear scouts.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Polar bear scouts? Santa has polar bears that are scouts?

Elf Crash: No, you dork, Santa has scouts that find polar bears that work for Santa.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Polar bears? What do polar bears do for Santa?

Elf Crash: They move really big heavy things over snow and ice, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: I had no idea. What kinds of things?

Elf Crash: Heavy, heavy things like loads of rocks.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Rocks? Why would Santa need to move rocks?

Elf Crash: To give them as gifts, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Wait – wut? Santa gives rocks to people? You mean, like coal?

Elf Crash: Well coal is a kind of rock, so yeah, that would be something polar bears would move for Santa if he had a lot of it. But Santa doesn't give anyone coal. Like the naughty list, that's a myth, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Why would anyone get rocks from Santa for Christmas?

Elf Crash: Because they ask for it, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Do they do that?

Elf Crash: Evidently they do, Frank. That's why Santa has polar bears. And that's why there are scouts for polar bears, so Santa can find those who are willing to move rocks.

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Elf Frank Myrrh: The answers have grown sillier than the questions here, Crash. Let's move on. A teacher, Emily Pearson, down in Australia in Sector 1, she says, wants to know how the reindeer handle the heat when they fly on Christmas?

Elf Crash: I'm glad she asked that, Frank. Most people think of the reindeer in the snow and the ice, and not the heat and I can tell you from personal experience that it can get really hot down there at Christmas. So this is a good question.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Do reindeer even like the heat, Crash?

Elf Crash: I think they do but they are like anyone else. They get thirsty and need a lot of water. To answer Emily's question directly, most people don't know this but there's a thermal control system embedded in Santa's sleigh so that no matter the weather the reindeer remain at a constant level.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Really? Like a thermostat in a house?

Elf Crash: Right. And it's not complicated, Frank. This is one of the first modern technologies that was installed on Santa's sleigh, decades and decades ago. The reindeer are kept at a constant temperature of 67.9 degrees precisely. They only need water as we travel and they get through hot areas like Australia pretty easily.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Wow, that's really good to know. Zoey, in Calgary, Canada, asks this question: If I tell you something to put on the news, will you?

Elf Crash: No. I don't have any decision making authority about what goes on North Pole Radio News. I report what they tell me to report on.

Elf Frank Myrrh: And who is that who decides what goes on North Pole Radio News?

Elf Crash: It's lead by the News Director, Elf Ed Zachary. And he makes the decision based on what he thinks believers want to know about. We can't possibly cover all the news at the North Pole in the brief time they give us to report, Frank. You and I have talked about this many times.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Yes, we have. But I think we cover the most important stuff.

Elf Crash: Right and that's more the point, I think. We're trying to answer the most common questions coming in from the bigger number of believers. But Sophia needs to understand, I'm not a newsman like you, Frank. I don't have formal training and I don't know the news business. I just tell you what I see when you ask me questions. And I like my place with that. Someone else can decide what goes on the news, I like being able to share what I see. It's pretty simple.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Good answer, Crash. And let's see if you have an answer to this next question that is pretty simple. Maddie, who lives in Michigan, wants to know how she can find out what her Mom wants for Christmas. Her mom won't tell her and it sounds like Maddie wants to do something for her really nice.

Elf Crash: I love this question, Frank. People don't ask me this kind of question and I think a lot of people have this kind of problem. So thank you, Maddie for asking. Here's my idea. Instead of asking your Mom what SHE wants, tell her you're trying to help a friend figure out what to get THEIR Mom for Christmas – and listen to whatever your Mom says. Because you know why? Moms like to tell people what to get others for Christmas instead of speaking of those wishes themselves. That's just the way Moms are. So you gotta play this game. Pretend you don't know what to get another Mom for Christmas and she'll tell you what she really wants for Christmas.

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Elf Frank Myrrh: That's brilliant, Crash. Do you get asked about what to give people for Christmas?

Elf Crash: Oh heck no. Unless it's about smoking meat or something but that's usually just guys being guys.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Crash, here is a Santa question for you. Taylor from Salt Lake City asks, if I leave a present wrapped for Santa will he take it home with him on Christmas Eve?

Elf Crash: I think he would, Frank. I mean Santa takes cookies. But I gotta say something here. God bless Taylor for thinking of Santa like that. I just love that. That's Christmas right there. I think it would be great if everyone did something a little nice for Santa. I know there are cookies and Santa loves that. But this is just thoughtful, Frank. I want to be Taylor's friend now. What a great person. Do we know how old she is?

Elf Frank: She's 7.

Elf Crash: Wow, only 7 and she already understands Christmas so well. That's just awesome, Frank.

Elf Frank Myrrh: I like Taylor too. What a great kid. I think she could teach a thing or two to this person, another girl, named Lelani, who says she is from the Bahamas. Lelani wants to know if all elves use magic.

Elf Crash: What does she mean by magic, Frank? I know some elves practice magic. I know an elf in Flight Command named Elf Waylon who can pull a coin out of your ear. But I don't think that is the kind of magic Lelani is talking about.

Elf Frank Myrrh: It's not. I think she means magic like being able to fly directly to someone's house just by thinking about it or maybe something like making presents appear in a Christmas stocking.

Elf Crash: I don't know any kind of elf or person who can do things like that. Does that mean it never happens? No, it just means I've never seen it.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Crash, do you know things that Santa can do that the world at large doesn't know?

Elf Crash: Who's asking that question and why?

Elf Frank: Nobody. I mean, I'm asking that question, I guess. You follow Santa on Christmas Eve. You get to see closeup what a lot of people would like to see. You likely know things nobody else knows about Santa and his ability.

Elf Crash: Yes, I know a few things, Frank. But I will never talk about them. What Santa does every year has become very special to me since I was assigned to follow him on Christmas and report on the radio. I cannot report on all I see and nobody needs to know those things I know about Santa and how he does it.

Elf Frank: Do you ever ask Santa questions about things like that?

Elf Crash: I do, Frank. I am a believer at the end of the day and I want to know and understand just like everyone else. There are some things I am just dying to talk about and I can't because that would be breaking a trust I have with Santa. I can only talk about those things he tells me I can talk about. It is important to him and what he does that I don't share everything I know. I have to be really careful.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Did learning those things change the way you feel about Santa?

Elf Crash: Yeah, they make me like him more. I want to honor Santa. He's a very special man and I think we don't need to know everything about how he does things needs to be shared. It's good enough to know he's a very, very good person.

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Elf Frank Myrrh: Ok, here's a good one. Garrett, of British Columbia, asks why Norad doesn't use North Pole Radio News or any information from SantaUpdate.com?

Elf Crash: I don't know why, Frank. I'm not sure anyone has ever talked to them about it, I suppose. They seem to be pretty intent of using military equipment and sources for their efforts. It is what it is, Frank. They have their hearts in the right place and that's the only thing that is important. If they want news we'll be glad to work with them.

Elf Frank Myrrh: I do know a little about the efforts to share North Pole news with other organizations. But it is usually TV stations and radio stations that use our stuff. Norad isn't a media outlet and maybe they don't know.

Elf Crash: There's a lot of good people there and while we give them a little bit of hard time because their information isn't always accurate I know they are good folks who believe in Santa.

Elf Frank Myrrh: A believer in San Rafael, California, Sector 5, is worried about the Grinch coming to her home instead of Santa on Christmas Eve. Have you ever heard of that happening, Crash?

Elf Crash: No, not really.

Elf Frank Myrrh: What does “not really” mean? It almost implies that it’s possible.

Elf Crash: Frank, North Pole Security, one of the most misunderstood departments at the North Pole, deals with constant issues of people impersonating Santa on Christmas Eve. They catch them using drones, and wearing Santa suits, and yes, sometimes on roof tops and in chimneys. That’s crazy, Frank, and North Pole Security does a great job dealing with weirdos like that.

Elf Frank Myrrh: When you say North Pole Security is the most misunderstood department at the North Pole, what do you mean by that?

Elf Crash: On Christmas Eve, it’s their job to keep Santa and the reindeer safe. That’s it. But when we say security a lot of people think spies or other people associated with keeping naughty and nice lists and that just isn’t what North Pole Security does. They deal with bad guys who want to harm Santa. And that’s pretty much it.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Okay, Crash. Good answer than makes sense. One more question here about elves and magic. Elf Wendy, an 11-year old from Sector 3 in England, says she wants to be an Elf on the Shelf and use magic to help younger believers to enjoy Christmas. What’s your advice to her?

Elf Crash: Well, first of all, forget all this stuff about magic. I don’t know why some believers out there think as elves we use magic. I know an elf or two who can do tricks but I don’t know an elf on God’s green earth who has magical power. We’re people. We can’t fly and we can’t disappear and we don’t do fairy dust or any of that mumbo jumbo. We’re people, just like Santa, just like anyone else. And second of all, why would you as an elf want to work for anyone other than Santa? Santa just doesn’t send elves to people’s houses. That’s not a good idea.

Elf Frank Myrrh: I know we’ve covered a lot of ground this year on the whole elf on the shelf thing, Crash. Santa has said, as you suggested, that we begin to deal with this after Christmas. If Wendy wants to be an elf on the shelf for someone, what’s your advice to her?

Elf Crash: My advice is to forget about it and instead maybe focus on what Santa wants her to do as an elf. I can tell you from personal experience that Santa knows best and I have more fun as an elf than I could ever come up with on my own.

Elf Frank Myrrh: Ok, Crash. Thanks for taking the time in answering questions for us. I know the next few days are going to be busy for you and that this is likely our last chance to really talk before you hop in that sleigh and chase Santa around the world. Thank you for your many efforts this season and best of luck out there in the skies. For North Pole Radio News and the North Pole Podcast, and on behalf of Elf Crash, this is Elf Frank Myrrh reporting for SantaUpdate.com on the Kringle Radio Network.