

# Who's Who in The Big Red Suit ~ 11 Best Santas in the US

By Olivia B. Waxman @OBWaxDec. 09, 2013

A great Santa is one who, according to [International University of Santa Claus](#) director Timothy Connaghan, 65, (aka "Santa Hollywood"), wins over "that second grader who is kind of on the fence and doesn't know whether to continue believing or to go with what his friends say, which is that Mom and Dad are [playing Santa]. That's what parents really love, when their children can continue believing for one more year."

Based on recommendations from Connaghan, a big red suit wearer for 45 years, Susen Mesco, a "Mrs. Claus" for more than 30 years who runs the American Events's [Professional Santa Claus School](#) in Denver, and Ernest Berger, founder of the charitable organization [Santa-America](#), NewsFeed spotlights some of the best Santas in the U.S. Several men and women on this list do more than sit in a chair and give out presents. They give back to the some of the neediest children and families this holiday season.

## Santa Kris Kringle

Downtown Container Park in Las Vegas, Nevada (weekends)



Chris Groeschke

Chris Groeschke, 57, keeps a [mailbox at a UPS store](#) in Las Vegas so that children can send in their wish lists, and he will reply with a card "from the North Pole." When he sees people doing good deeds in the area, he hands them poker chips with an

image of a happy-looking Santa on one side. (The other side shows a grumpy-looking Santa, and if you're handed one with that side up, then you've probably been "naughty.") And to top it all off, his car's Nevada license plate reads "SANTA1."

Read more: [Santa Kris Kringle | Christmas and Santa Claus: The 11 Best Santas in the U.S. | TIME.com](http://newsfeed.time.com/2013/12/09/these-are-the-11-best-santas-in-the-u-s/slide/santa-kris-kringle/#ixzz2n73vKh7n) <http://newsfeed.time.com/2013/12/09/these-are-the-11-best-santas-in-the-u-s/slide/santa-kris-kringle/#ixzz2n73vKh7n>