



10 of the Coolest Hi-Tech Gift Ideas

Hi-tech gifts are always some of the most popular under the tree, but it can be difficult to keep up with the latest trends. We're here to help. This list has a few ideas for every age group and price range. Good luck knocking out your list this year!

Handheld Pac-Man Arcade Game: Vintage arcade games are really popular right now, and this one puts a classic right in the palm of your hand.

Roku Express+ Streaming Stick: The latest Roku Stick allows you to transform your television into a smart t.v. without a monthly subscription. It provides access to over 350,000 shows and movies across channels like Netflix, Hulu, and PBS Kids.

Anker PowerCore Slim 5000 Portable Charger: The slim, portable charger that can boost your phone battery while you are on the move.

Podo Stick & Shoot Camera: The back of this miniature camera has a sticky pad that allows you to stick it to flat surfaces to take group pictures or videos.

Amazon Kindle Paperwhite E-Reader: The Kindle is perfect for the avid reader who doesn't like to carry print. It features advancements in lighting, durability, and battery life.

Echo Spot: A new smarthome release from Amazon. All of the old services of Alexa with a screen display for news stories, clocks, video calls, and more.

Apple AirPods: These wireless headphones are great for music lovers who are active.

Lego Boost Creative Toolbox Building Kit: This kit allows children who enjoy science and computers to build their own robot from scratch with Lego blocks. Once complete, it is controlled by connecting it to their tablet.

iRobot Roomba 650 Robot Vacuum: The smart vacuum that's perfect for on-the-go families. It will keep your floor clean so you can take care of more important things!

Nintendo Switch: A new take on the classic gaming system that can transition from a mobile device to a home console. Two remotes included.

There are literally hundreds of other gadgets and devices out there, so set aside a little time to check them out online. Your loved ones will be all smiles Christmas morning! Keep in mind that many of these amazing gifts connect to the internet. Call us today if you would like to try our 3 month speed-upgrade for no additional cost.



Wishing you the Happiest of Holidays!

Poka Lambro will be closed the following days this Holiday Season:
Monday December 25th & Tuesday December 26th in observance of Christmas
Monday January 1st in observance of New Year's Day

IN THIS ISSUE

**10 of the Coolest
Hi-Tech Gift Ideas**

Broadcast Messaging

Lifeline Notice

Fiber Network Updates

Tech Tip: Passwords

2017: A Look Back

**Christmas Breakfast
Casserole Recipe**

New Connects

**Toys That Connect
to the Internet**

What's Cooking?

Do you have a recipe you would like to see featured in "The Connection"? Email your recipe, along with a picture, to marketing@poka.com and we will choose one dish each quarter to feature.

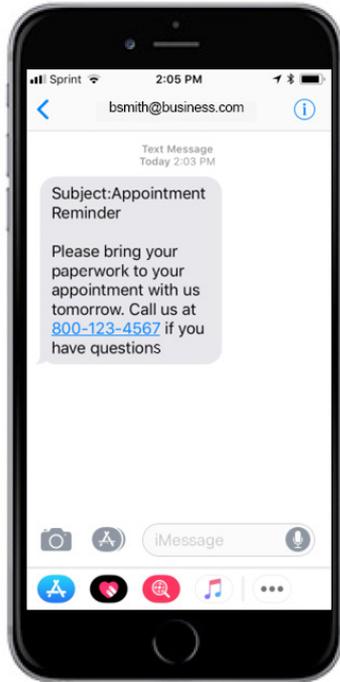


Broadcast Messaging

Do you own or manage a business or organization? Do you have a large group of customers, employees, or members to keep informed? Use Broadcast Messaging as a powerful automated messaging service that will deliver phone calls, e-mails, and even text messages! Send non-pay reminders, meeting reminders, weather cancellations, service changes, outages, and appointment reminders to large groups with ease. Pick your monthly plan based on your number of contacts and pay a fixed monthly fee.

With Broadcast Messaging, all of your notifications can be managed through an easy-to-use web portal. With a wide variety of settings and reporting options, it is guaranteed to save you and your staff time and money. At Poka Lambro, we use it to notify our employees of safety meetings, construction, special events, and more. It is ideal for service companies, doctor's offices, school districts, government entities, and so many more! Call us today for details!

At Right: Sample text message. You customize the subject, message, and list of recipients.



Lifeline Notice

Lifeline is a government assistance program, available from Poka Lambro, that provides a monthly discount on telephone services (fixed or wireless) or broadband service (fixed or wireless) but not both, to qualified, low-income customers. Only one Lifeline discount is allowed per household. To be eligible for Lifeline a customer's annual household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the federal discount, or at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the state discount. You may also be eligible for Lifeline if you or someone in your household participates in one of the following state or federal assistance programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans or Survivors Pension Benefit, National School Lunch program (NSLP)(state only discount) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)(state only discount), or Health benefits coverage under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)(state only discount). Additional discounts may be available for residents of Tribal lands. For more information, or to apply, contact the Texas Low Income Discount Administrator at: 1-866-454-8387.

Para recibir esta información en español, por favor póngase en contacto con Poka Lambro al 800-422-2387.



Fiber Network Updates

We remain committed to upgrading our infrastructure and network in order to deploy a first rate fiber optic voice and data network to meet the evolving needs of our customers. Once fiber has been installed in an area, customers located there will need to upgrade to the new fiber facilities to experience the added benefits. There is no cost to the customer to transition to fiber facilities. However, we do need to enter the home or business to install a small piece of equipment.

Ausborne: The cable construction phase has been completed in Ausborne. Fiber-splicing has begun.

Hatch: Fiber-splicing has been completed. Customer conversions are underway.

New Home: Construction is underway in areas of New Home.

Patricia: Fiber-splicing has been completed in Sparenburg. Customer conversions are underway.

Wheatley: The Wheatley exchange has been completed. If you are located in this area and have not yet been upgraded to the new fiber facilities, please contact our office to schedule a time for the upgrade.

If you are unsure whether you are in an area that has been upgraded, or need to schedule an appointment, please call us at 806-924-7234 or 800-422-2387.

Tech Tip



We often hear that we should use a "strong" password to help defend our computers and information from hackers and harmful software, but what exactly is a strong password? Follow the guidelines below, and remember not to tell your passwords to anyone or write them down where they can easily be found. Make sure the answer to your security question is as hard to guess as your password. Use a secondary security measure when you can (PIN, fingerprint, verification e-mail, etc).

A strong password:

- Is at least twenty characters long
- Does not contain a complete word, name, consecutive letters, or consecutive numbers (ex. abc123)
- Is significantly different from previous passwords
- Contains at least one uppercase letter, lowercase letter, number, and a symbol
- Is changed at least every 90 days, or if you suspect someone may know your password
- Is different from passwords you use on other sites or devices

2017: A Look Back

2017 has been another amazing year at Poka Lambro. One of the most rewarding parts is always giving back to our local communities. Each year we give dozens of donations, award scholarships, and participate in and sponsor a variety of local events. This year, just to name a few, we were involved in auctions, stock shows, parades, school field trips, and festivals. Nothing is better than seeing smiling faces at these events, catching up with our friends, and the overall sense of pride we see every day.

On top of all this, we are proud to be a leader in the technology that drives business and education in our traditionally underserved region. Poka Lambro was established in 1950 with a commitment to provide reliable rural telephone service using the most advanced technology available. Today, we have the same goal we had over 65 years ago, to keep you connected. That is why we laid over 140 miles of new fiber in 2017, and have laid almost 600 miles since 2011. That's also the reason we continue to develop and invest in new technologies and services that will benefit our customers for years to come.

If you would like more information about any of our services, or have an event coming up, contact us at 806-924-7234 or 800-422-2387. Let's make 2018 even better!



The 2017 Poka Lambro Scholarship recipients.



The Easter Bunny Welcomed Pre-K students for an Easter egg hunt.



Hundreds of members joined us for our Annual Meeting last March.

Christmas Breakfast Casserole

Ingredients

- 8 eggs
- 1 cup Half & Half
- Texas Toast
- Salt/Pepper
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 2-3 Tbsp. chopped green onion
- 1 lb Jimmy Dean pork sausage (hot may be used for extra flavor)
- Prepare the night before and refrigerate for best results

A special thanks to Theresa Chester, a Poka Lambro employee, for sharing her recipe!

Steps

- Spray 9 x 13 baking dish with cooking spray
- Line bottom of dish with the Texas Toast; cutting bread to completely cover
- Brown sausage until fully cooked; drain
- Mix eggs, Half & Half, onion, salt and pepper
- Add cooked sausage to the mixture
- Pour evenly over the Texas Toast
- Sprinkle cheese evenly over the top – use more or less depending on taste preference
- Cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight
- Leave covered with foil and bake @ 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until eggs are set
- Remove foil and bake an additional 5 to 10 minutes to brown
- Enjoy!

New Connects

Fletcher-Carter

Tyler Hawthorne..... (806) 327-5472

Hatch

Keith Nichols..... (806) 497-6384

Loop

Jessie D Cannon..... (806) 487-6842
 Aspen Grow..... (806) 487-6735
 Heath Haynes..... (806) 487-6812

Nelms

Kathy Grant..... (806) 645-8445

New Home

Eddie Alvarado Jr..... (806) 924-7678
 Shea Baccus..... (806) 924-7578
 Keith Cheatham..... (806) 924-7398
 Garrett Kaldenberg..... (806) 924-7795
 Jennifer Ritz..... (806) 924-7333
 The Spot Cafe..... (806) 924-7768

O'Donnell

Lupe Carrasco..... (806) 428-3753
 Judy Wilson..... (806) 428-3709

Punkin Center

Theresa & Frede Galbraith..... (806) 489-7523
 Kristen F Mahan..... (806) 489-7952
 Lanisha Matthews..... (806) 489-7429
 Olga L Morado..... (806) 489-7437
 Michael Wilcox..... (806) 489-7540



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Hensley
PRESIDENT

Randy Simpson
VICE PRESIDENT

Quinton Kearney
SECRETARY

Kevin Pepper
TREASURER

Wendell Morrow
DIRECTOR

Wayne Barton
DIRECTOR

Ricky Mills
DIRECTOR

The Connection

Published Quarterly by

Poka Lambro Telephone
Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 1340
Tahoka, TX 79373

(806) 924-7234

Poka Lambro Security
P.O. Box 1340
Tahoka, TX 79373
License #B15273

David McEndree

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Tray Young

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

 **POKA LAMBRO**
Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 1340
Tahoka, TX 79373

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 39

**IT'S BETTER TO
GIVE AND RECEIVE!!**

**Refer a friend and you will
each receive a \$20 bill-credit.
Call for details! 806-924-7234**



Toys That Connect to the Internet



If you have children in your house, chances are you have toys that connect to the internet. They can be great for educational and entertainment purposes. However, while we are all well aware of the security threats that come with computers, phones, and other devices, most of us never think twice about the threats that come with these toys. Some of them have microphones that record data, and some collect GPS data with the toy's location. All of this information could be valuable to hackers or predators. Here are a few tips to enjoy connected toys safely:

- read the disclosures and privacy policies carefully before buying
- find out where any collected data is going and what safeguards are in place
- change your passwords regularly and make them difficult to crack
- make sure your Wi-Fi is password protected and your firmware software is up-to-date
- update the toy to the newest software version (if applicable)
- monitor your children's activity with connected toys and any other devices
- talk to your children about potential risks and what information should never be shared