

Custody Tip # 2 – Making the Most of Holidays

In Custody Tip #1, we revealed how smart holiday scheduling with Custody X Change could help a parent with shared custody gain a **dramatic boost in child visitation time**. But that was only the half of it. Custody Tip #2 involves the amazing way holidays can boost visitation time for the Non-Custodial Parent – making the custody situation more fair.

The idea is startlingly simple – and startlingly easy to accomplish with Custody X Change. Just follow along and we'll show you what to do.

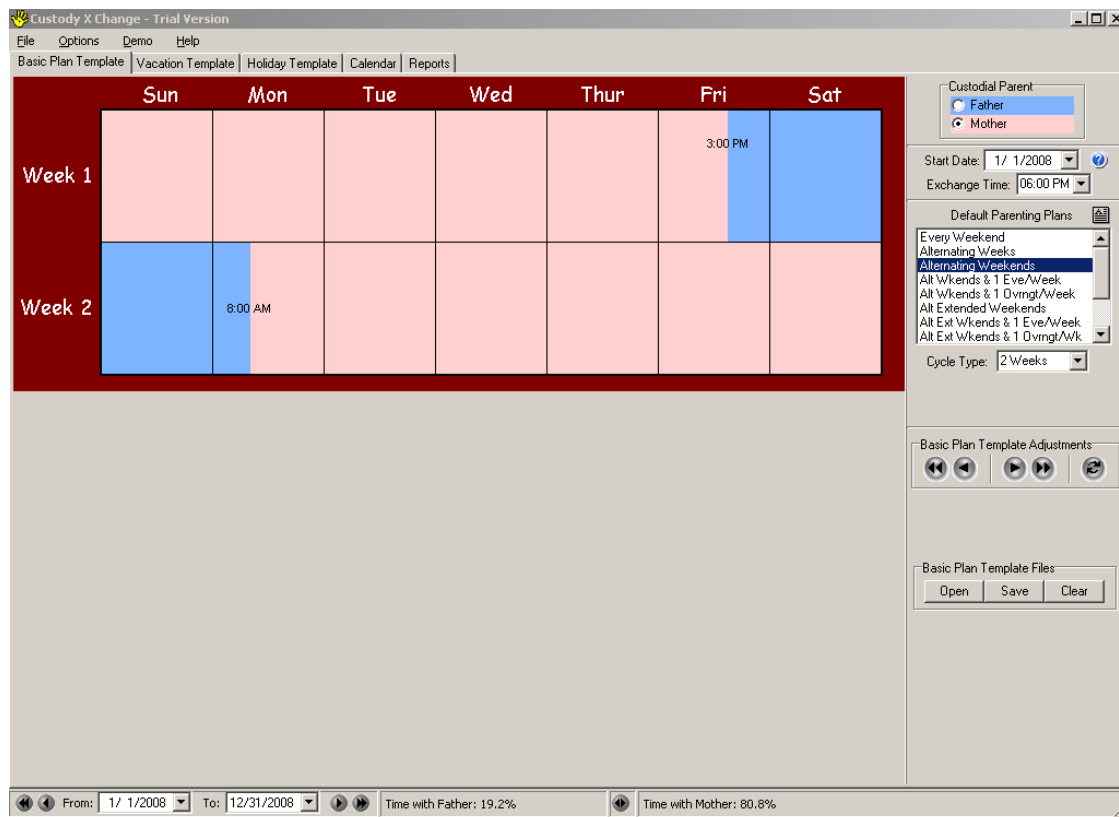


Figure 1: Typical Custodial/Non-Custodial Arrangement as mapped out on Custody X Change

Note Figure 1 from Custody X Change. In this scenario, Dad, the Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) only has the kids on alternate weekends - Mom, the Custodial Parent (CP), has

them the rest of the time. As you can tell from the bottom bar, this leaves Dad with a low 19% of total visitation time.

It doesn't matter if Mom or Dad is the NCP – no parent is going to be happy with that low a percentage. And, thanks to Custody X Change, they don't have to be.

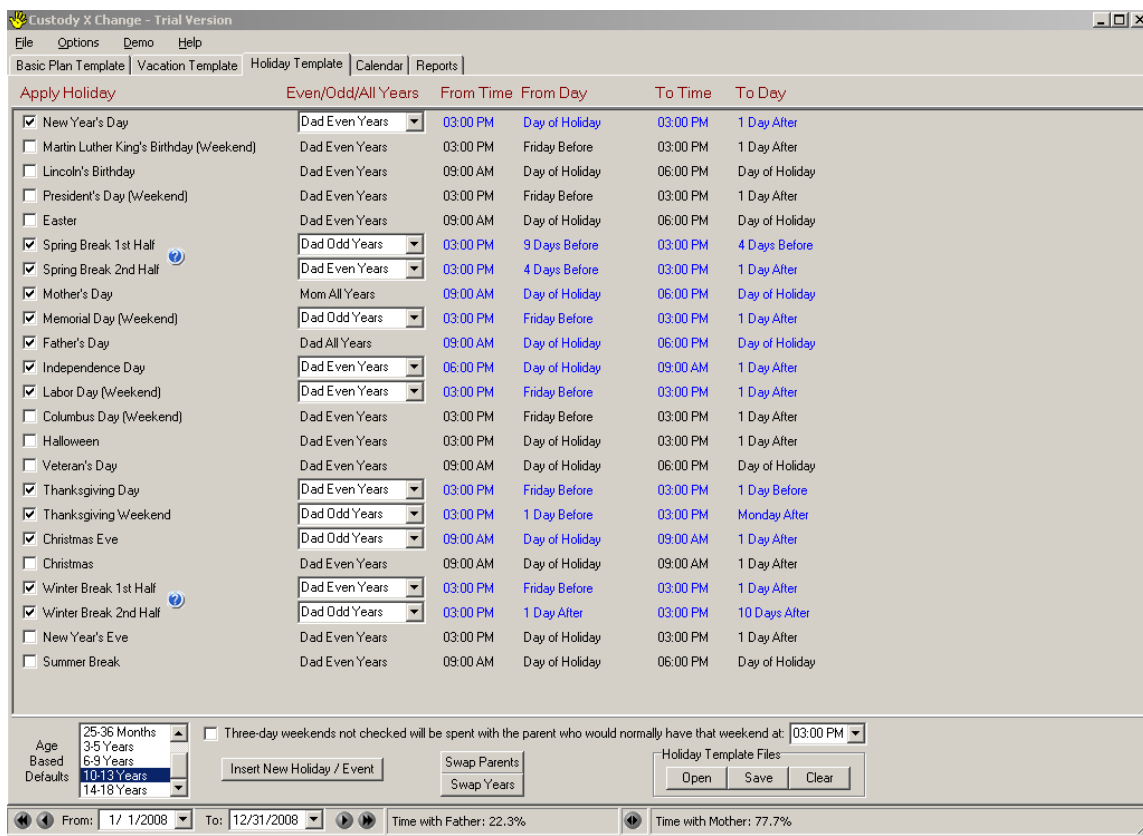


Figure 2: Typical Holiday Breakout for NCP/CP arrangement

Now, let's input a typical holiday arrangement template from one of the Custody X Change holiday templates. The major holidays and school year breaks are divided evenly – and that gets our NCP up to 22% of the time-share period. A nice little jump, right? I mean, that's all you can expect, right?

Wrong. Luckily, **this is only the beginning** of the holiday possibilities.

If you or your client is the NCP, you want to make up for that still-low percentage of visitation time – because you want to see your kids more and you want your child support to go down.

The trick is to push for every single holiday that you can beyond the big ones. We're talking Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, in short – **every single holiday**. Not only that – but also make each holiday last **as long as you can** – weekends, or, in the case of Super Holidays like Christmas or Thanksgiving, **an entire week**. Make pick-up times sooner. Make drop-off times later.

And not only **that** – but also push for time during **every single school break**. You know that's going to make a huge difference. So make it work for **you**.

Insert New Holiday / Event - Specific To This Plan

Event Name for Report: Dad's Birthday

Event Name for Calendar: Dad's Birthday (15 chars max)

Repeating - Exact Repeating - Relative One Time Event

Day: 22 Week: 4th

Month: January Day: Tuesday 1/22/2009

Year: Each Year Month: January

Insert Clear

Currently Inserted Holidays & Events

Modify

Delete

Close

Figure 3: It's easy to input additional holidays with Custody X Change.

Obviously, you're not going to get everything you want. But let's do a little creative juggling here, push times and holidays aggressively without getting too ridiculous and see what we get.

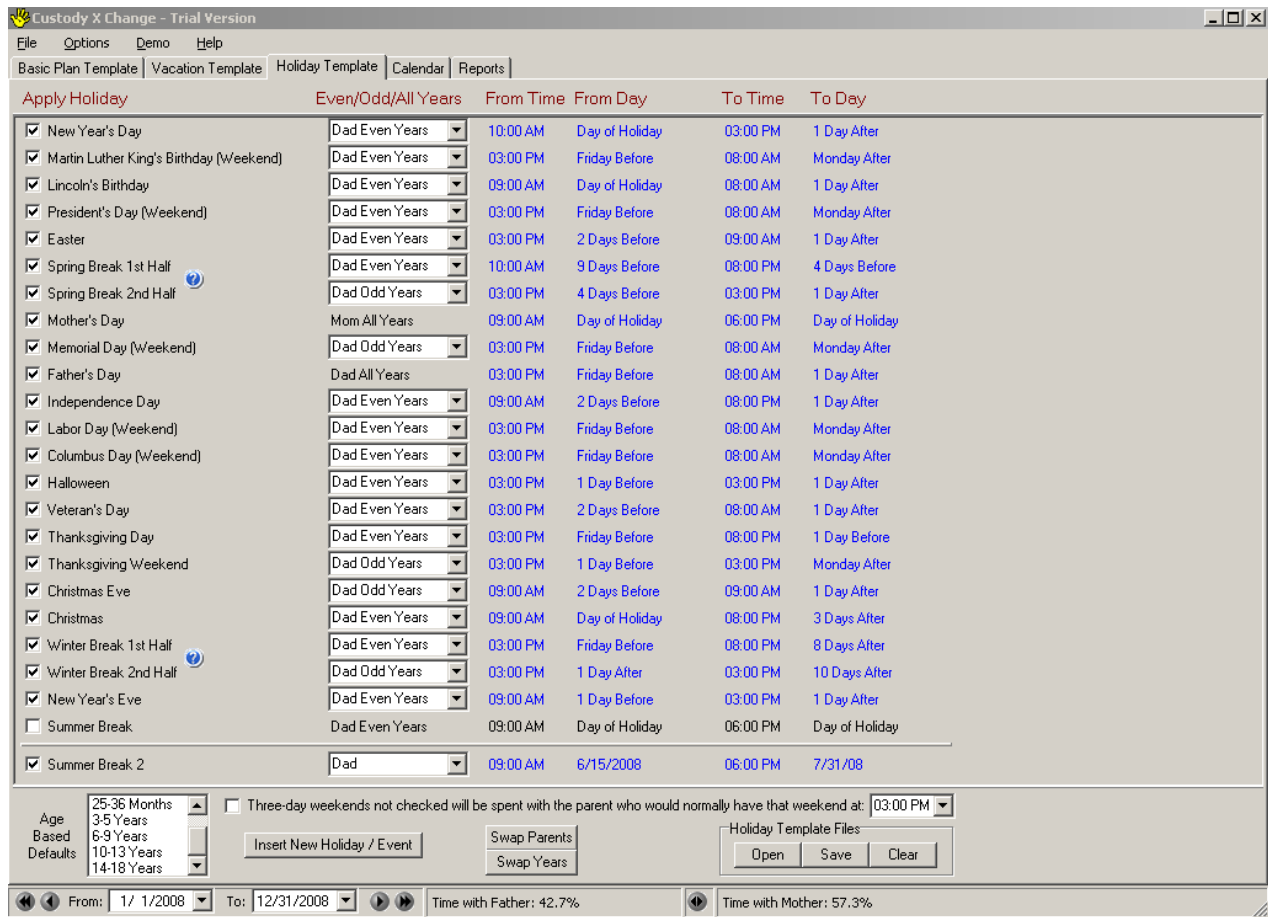


Figure 4: Working the Holiday Template to the max.

Amazing. Take a look at Figure 4. The NCP visitation time has almost **doubled** - shot up from 22% to over 42% - close to a 50/50 split – **solely because of extending holidays and using school breaks!** This is only made possible by **Custody X Change's easy-to-use interface** that instantly shows you what tweaking individual holidays gets you overall in visitation time.

Next, find out how vacation time can also mean more visitation time.