

Block Party Suggestions

Ideas for Fun

- Invite the musicians or other artists on your street to perform.
- Hire a clown to make balloon animals, or hire a magician, juggler, or other entertainer.
- Help the kids put together a talent show.
- Organize a sack race, scavenger hunt, tug-of-war, limbo contest, hula-hoop competition.
- Provide decorating materials for kids' bikes, tricycles and wagons -- have a parade.
- Set up materials for individual or group art projects.
- Pull together a neighborhood band or get a karaoke machine for a sing-a-long.
- Organize a human scavenger hunt or bingo (e.g. say hello to someone who speaks a different language, find someone who is a twin, someone with a beard, etc.).
- Create a neighborhood map and have folks mark where they live on the map.
- Be sure to have some music and speakers for fun music.
- If a big Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots or Bruins game will be on during your party, setup a TV on someone's porch so the fans won't stay home and miss the party.

Ideas for Eating

- Gather several grills and have a giant cook-out.
- Order pizza or other local take-out favorites for everyone.
- Hold a potluck and ask each family to bring a dish reflecting their cultural heritage.
- Set up a "make your own sundae" ice cream station.
- Rent a machine to make cotton candy, popcorn or snow cones.
- Hold a brownie bake-off (or pie, or cupcake, or.....)
- Bake or order a cake decorated with a map of the neighborhood.

Ideas for Community-Building

- Have everyone make their name tag – it makes conversation easier and friendlier.
- Take a group photo of everyone.
- Compile a list of neighbors available for odd jobs (dog walking, babysitting, snow shoveling, leaf-raking, etc).
- Make an inventory of neighborhood tools – who has a snow blower, chainsaw, tall ladder?
- Identify neighborhood skills – computer guru, bike repair, camping guru, local history buff!
- Make a street map and have neighbors fill in name, phone #, email address.
- Compile a neighborhood directory with phone numbers and email addresses and use it to send out "save the date" notices or other messages.
- Invite your City Councilor to come and talk about community affairs or hear concerns.



Tips, Ideas and Lessons Learned from Prior Block Parties

- Encourage community businesses to support the block party with sponsorships or food/supplies donations.
- Set a rain date.
- Get signatures from neighbors early for closing the street.
- Set the tradition and host the block party the same weekend every year so folks expect it.
- One neighborhood with many seniors held a coffee from 9-11 am on a Saturday.
- Use the event to discuss neighborhood issues such as snow removal, traffic problems, parking, public maintenance problems, etc.
- Flyers for your party can be left in doors but not in mailboxes. Federal law prohibits putting flyers (or unstamped advertising or any sort) in mailboxes.