

# IDEAS FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

What follows are fun, easy, and inspiring ideas for you to plan a simple neighborhood gathering. You can take lead on the effort, find a neighbor near you who has passion for it, and rally others to be a part of it as well. These ideas come from a combination of our own experiences and recommendations from our partners and several of the nation's leading community organizations.

These are just ideas – you decide what works best in your neighborhood. The most important thing is that whatever you choose, those activities build relationships and connections among neighbors throughout the year.

## **Fun Ideas:**

- Block party
- Welcome new neighbors
- Yard sale
- Book exchange
- Create a neighborhood babysitters list
- Talent show
- Art show
- Kids performance or play
- Battle of the Bands
- Karaoke party
- Outdoor movie screening
- Arts and crafts festival
- Neighborhood walking tour
- Nature walking tour
- Make a photo scrapbook or video of your neighborhood
- Share resources (for example, extra produce from garden, tool sharing)
- Kite flying
- Blood drive
- Food drive
- Bake sale for charity
- Assemble "Party Buckets" with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, etc.
- Provide a basket of kids' books with a neighborhood theme

## **Games (Great ice breaker activities!):**

- Twister
- Basketball
- Four square

- Whiffle ball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Board games
- Cards
- Dominoes tournament
- Slip and slide

**Food and Drink:**

- Potluck
- Barbecue
- Dessert party/ice cream social
- Spaghetti supper
- Pancake breakfast
- Picnic
- Pizza party
- Cocktail party
- Lemonade stand
- Cookie exchange

**Neighborhood Lists (to create at your event):**

- Neighborhood phone/email list or directory
- Tool sharing lists
- "Gift" sharing lists
- Flip chart for attendees to write down neighborhood project ideas, good neighbor activities, etc.

**Neighborhood Service Projects:**

Consider organizing a neighborhood service project for the morning, followed by fun gathering later in the day.

Litter cleanup. Whether it's a local park in your neighborhood or simply the street you live on this is a great way to rally people together to care for their community.

Food or clothing drive. Pick a local pantry or homeless shelter and rally neighbors to support these local organizations by donating items and working together to make an impact.

Habitat for Humanity builds houses and provides people with affordable housing. [Click here to find your local affiliate and projects in your area.](#)

Collaborate with neighbors and look for other activities throughout the year.

**Neighborhood Beautification:**

- Start a community garden
- Bulb or tree planting
- Invasive plant species removal in your park
- Fall landscaping clean-up
- Neighborhood spruce-up
- Create a nature trail
- Bike or walking trail repair
- Paint a neighborhood mural
- Paint the fence in a community garden
- Graffiti removal

**Community Agencies:**

- Invite neighborhood firefighters and/or police officers to your gathering -great way for you to meet and learn the names of the people who protect and serve your neighborhood - plus kids love it when the fire truck comes to a gathering!
- Invite the community health center to set up a resources table at your gathering, hand out information and brochures, answer questions, discuss services, etc.
- Invite local nonprofit organizations to come and hand out information about their services.

**Emergency Preparedness:**

- Invite local Red Cross volunteers to attend, share resources, and conduct a CPR or first aid training.

**Safety Projects:**

- Child car seat inspection
- Bicycle tune-up

**Local Businesses:**

- Involve any businesses in the neighborhood: open house, using their facilities for the event.
- Ask local businesses to get involved – provide a coupon for a discount on services or products, donations: trees, flowers, food, drink, etc.