

Party Sponsor Tips

- The Barbeque was a great idea. It is a good way to get people to socialize outside
- Starting the party @ 5pm was perfect since the sun goes down earlier.
- Keeping it really low key-the host should really only have to worry about setting up and have everyone else bring food.
- We notified neighbors via e-mail, the postcards delivered via US Mail, the door hangars and word of mouth. All were necessary to get the word out.
- Leaving it open for people to bring whatever...but also set a shorter time...more people come since they will only have to be there for short period of time
- Know your neighbors and get together several times throughout the year. We order a giant bounce house each time for this party, so the kids come running every year. We also are using the Nextdoor website...which is great!
- We have an email list serve that was started at DNNO a couple of years ago and it has proven a valuable way to communicate throughout the year. Also, on Facebook, I created a "Neighbor" group which includes neighbors/Davis friends who are my FB friends. This enabled me to invite/inform at least some electronically. I invited others in Davis (through FB and list serves I belong to) who don't live in our immediate neighborhood but may not have had a party going on nearby. Since Davis is such a small town, we're all pretty much neighbors, right?
- Appetizers + desserts are best; less preparation and people mingle more.
- The methods and materials available from the City work great. Two of us always go together door to door with invitations and reminders. THE PERSONAL CONTACT IS VERY IMPORTANT, especially for those who are not as connected with their neighbors. Plus, in our cul-de-sac, we set up early and make it look like a party. Your big signs with balloons attached, long tables with table cloths, food tables, lots of chairs, BBQs, balloons, etc. Generally, make it festive and welcoming!
- We use our neighborhood email list and talk to the two individuals who do not use email. We are going to add Nextdoor to our options.
- We have great neighbors who potluck and enjoy our time together. I think knowing your neighbors beyond 1 day a year makes for a fun and safe environment. I would like to have had our beat officer stop by- missed opportunity to connect with the person who takes care of our neighborhood
- Ours is low key and works well for the last three years - just chairs and tables in the street under the trees in the late afternoon of a beautiful fall day. Time to talk. Food to share. Name tags to help us remember.
- This year I didn't do door hangers, only the invitations. Some neighbors said the invitations came so early they forgot about it until they saw us out there. I will do the door hangers again next year to remind them. The brownie mix was a big hit, the student who made them said he had forgotten about the postcard invite that had come earlier and the delivery of the mix reminded him. We put our house number on our name tags and had a map of the block to write our names on our lots. It helps to visualize where everyone lives.
- A Sunday 5:00 PM dinner potluck was far better attended than earlier events in previous years (early or mid-afternoon).
- We have so many single older people and students, I should make it a dessert get together. Potluck dinner keeps some of the older folks from joining.
- This is our third year to do the party so we have a running neighborhood email list. This seems to work for us.

- What seems unimportant to this area is the city brochures . . . they simply remain on the table. No one takes them. Excess paper, from my point of view. However this area is composed of long-time residents.

- We distribute fliers about a month before the event. Then we distribute the door hanger reminders supplied by the city. This is our seventh year, and each year builds on itself, so folks look forward to the event. We wish we could get more students out, but they change each year, so that is a problem.

- I think we're going to do it earlier next year. 6pm was a little too late and it gets dark earlier now!

- Our neighborhood puts together our own custom flyer - it seems more personal (and less like junk mail) compared to the invites the city provides. Regarding students, our invite specifically said, "College students - just show up! We'll feed you!"

- This year we changed from having a party at the greenbelt to having our party in our driveway and for whatever reason, more people came. I also think it had to do with the recent addition of the Nextdoor Evergreen application even though our neighborhood communicates thru regular email.

- Face to face personal invitations are powerful. Have something for the kids to break the ice with each other, such as sidewalk chalk, a ball, and bubbles.

- Put together a small team of neighbors to help organize. Pre-planning helps too.

- This year I finally lined up lots of help: putting out door hangers, decorating, set-up, clean-up, etc. It would be helpful to list the tasks that an organizer might want to recruit help with. Otherwise, some people won't think of them until it's too late. Plus, some people like to be involved, so it would facilitate getting people to work together.

- BBQ Potluck worked great.

- 1) The street closure is a nice way to go for the kids. So rarely are they allowed to "play in the street" that my son looks forward to the block party all year. 2) Invite early, and remind a week before the party. 3) Have a grill out, and invite folks to bring their own meat. It keeps down the cost to any one family, and everyone eats what they like.

- For pot lucks, I usually write my phone number and what I'd like the house to bring, so I don't have too many, or too few of any one item (main dish/side dish/dessert). I ask residents/owners to bring main dishes, and students to bring sides or dessert. This has worked very well in the past.

- I loved having a zero waste event. Seems easy and as though everyone could be doing that.

- Having toys for the kids helped this year.

- Ask to have "RSVP" on the postcard and reminder

- Use the nametags! seek out new neighbors and tell them what the event is; relax and keep it very casual; our neighborhood had at least four evening events going on (the more the merrier), but I can't decide if it would be better to consolidate in the future (at risk of alienating those who like to be close to home) or maybe that would increase attendance overall because of the big group factor; we didn't coordinate at all this year and I did what I could so there was no feeling of poaching neighbors!

- We had good luck asking people to bring their own plates and silverware to lower waste. We invited neighboring neighbors (people on Loyola and Whittier who did not have a block party) and that was nice too.
