

## It's Party Time – Throwing a neighborhood block party

*Hosting a neighborhood block party is easier than you think. Here are some simple steps and ideas for your next neighborhood gathering.*

Hosting a neighborhood block party is easier than you think. Start by picking a time and place and spread the word. People often feel most comfortable in a shared public space, so consider hosting the get-together at a park or community center.

If you want to avoid the hassle and expense of planning food or refreshments, consider asking everyone to bring a dish to share or invite a local food truck to stop by. Check with local eateries to see if any of your neighborhood favorites have a mobile kitchen or check out [roaminghunger.com](http://roaminghunger.com) to find out more about food trucks in your area.

For a more casual atmosphere, go food-free. Try a community game night or organize a volunteer project. The possibilities are endless.

### **Invite the neighbors**

If you don't already have contact information, send invitations through the mail or affix fliers to each neighbor's doorway using removable tape. Be sure to invite everyone in your geographic area. Even if you know someone can't attend, it's best to send them an invitation, so they don't feel left out.

### **Activities optional**

Don't feel obligated to provide entertainment. A simple meet-and-greet format is a great choice. If you choose to organize activities, keep it light. Make sure that everyone can participate and avoid anything too competitive. Need some inspiration? Check out these Hello4Health activities:

- [Neighborhood scavenger hunt](#) – Explore your neighborhood while searching for items.
- [Conversation starters for neighbors](#) – Get to know your neighbors with these simple questions.
- [Neighbor map](#) – As you get to know your neighbors, use this map to remember key insights about them.

- [Social connections bingo](#) – Encourage your neighbors to try some of these simple ways to connect with others and see if they can get Bingo!

### **Party on**

Whether your party is big or small, casual or formal, don't forget to have fun.

### **Party do's and don'ts**

- DO encourage everyone to pitch in. Ask your neighbors to bring a game or snack to share.
- DO wear nametags. Avoid any awkward introductions by asking partygoers to wear name tags.
- DO ask permission before you share photos on social media.
- DON'T stress. The goal is to bring people together, not throw a Pinterest-perfect party.
- DON'T worry if you don't have a great turnout. Large get-togethers aren't for everyone. Some of your neighbors may feel awkward or overwhelmed in group settings.
- DON'T forget to have fun.