

GATHERING IDEAS

We know that sometimes the hardest part of throwing a block party is coming up with a gathering idea that will make people feel welcome while not overloading you. So we have compiled a number of ideas that you can use to throw a successful block party! These ideas have worked for people in our community and can work for you!

TIPS/INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC RESOURCE

Here are some general ideas for block parties - big and small!

- 1. GATHER AROUND A HOLIDAY!** It's easy to plan an event around a holiday—either recognized by the calendar or not. Think Pumpkin carving contest or 4th of July BBQ! You can also go non-traditional: Here is a list of random holidays that can inspire your next gathering, like National Bagel Day, or World Elephant Day!
- 2. OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT!** This idea works for all ages and can be as simple as projecting a movie onto your garage door.
- 3. EVERYONE LOVES A GAME!** Consider inviting your neighborhood over for either board games and carnival games and bring out the friendly competitors!
- 4. MAKE IT A COMPETITION!** Beyond games, consider theming your party around some kind of points based tournament like karaoke competition, pet parade, or even a talent show where everyone can showcase their hidden talents.
- 5. MAKE IT A POTLUCK!** This is a great way to get everyone involved and help take the load of providing food for everyone off of your shoulders!
- 6. WATER BALLOON FIGHT FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS!** This can be a great way to get kids excited for your block party and make a fun memory for the families of your neighborhood!
- 7. ICE CREAM NIGHT!** Whether you set up a Sundae bar, or call a local ice cream truck to park on your block, nothing brings people together like ice cream in the summer.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND / AVOID

- A theme is great, but remember you don't have to go overboard! A little goes a long way and the goal at the end of the day is a welcoming environment.
- Giving ownership of different areas to different people is a great way to help you execute and cultivate buy-in from your attendees.