

GET READY FOR YOUR

**BLOCK
PARTY**



NORTHEAST
BIBLE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

Hosting a neighborhood block party is a means to effectively engage families in our community. Your prayer and goal should be to form relationships of trust and mutual concern which produce faith conversations and lead to life change.

For suggested resources visit NEBC.CH/BlockParty

REASONS TO HOST A BLOCK PARTY

- Create an opportunity to know your neighbors by name. It is hard to share the joy you have in Jesus effectively with someone you don't know and who doesn't know you.
- To establish friendships. Friendships are formed around trust and concern. These are two necessary aspects of evangelism & shepherding relationships.
- To increase that sense of belonging to a community. Many people need to belong before they will believe or buy in.
- Ultimately, you want to host a block party because people matter immensely to our God. Jesus chose to be where people were gathered including parks, pathways, & parties. We want to engage our neighbors the way He did and earn the right to speak into their lives.

PLANNING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Things to consider when organizing your event.

1. GETTING STARTED

- The idea of a neighborhood block party is to bring neighbors together. It's a good idea to find 1 or 2 fellow believers in your area to help you with the event.
- Do not take the "Lone Ranger" approach. You may be able to manage the details but you will want numerous believers who will spread out and engage guests in meaningful ways.
- The first step is to create an event date, time, theme, and program plan.
- If this is the first time you will want to create flyers to personally invite neighbors. Share details which will set their minds at ease. Also, include something small they can bring (drink, ice, lawn chairs, etc). Having something to contribute allows your neighbors to feel like they've contributed something. See flyer template at NEBC.CH/BlockParty.



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2. TYPES OF BLOCK PARTIES

Which type of block party will work best in your neighborhood? Try not to go overboard, it can make people feel the event is too much work...Keep it Simple!

- Barbecue @ your house/yard
- Picnic @ the park or community center
- HOLIDAY GATHERING - Halloween, 4th of July, Fiesta, Cinco De Mayo, Easter, Etc.
- Game Night

3. HOW BIG TO MAKE IT

- Start off with a smaller event rather than a large one.
- In selecting who to invite, use natural neighborhood boundaries where possible (i.e. end of the block). If you are planning a street or cul-de-sac party, you need to invite everyone from that area.
- Decide early and make it clear in your flyer if this will be a block party restricted to those on the street/block or whether people can invite friends/relatives (if yes how many).

Remember, your goal is not numbers! Your end goal is relationships which lead to faith conversations.

4. THE TIMING TO GET THE EVENT PLANNED

- The flyer with date, time, and what to bring should go out 2-3 weeks before the event.
- A weekend date or holiday is often the best times for a block party. Some people have family and will have other plans but many people will not. You can provide a family experience for them during a time they might otherwise be all alone.
- Have an alternate rainout day planned, just in case.
- Keep in mind who lives in the neighborhood when setting the hours for the party. If young children or seniors are living near the party area plan to finish by 9pm.

5. THE SET UP

- Set up a sign-in book for follow up & use it to develop a contact list for your neighborhood.
- Nametags!!!



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- Decide what you want neighbors to write on their name tags (e.g. first and last names, house numbers).
- Line up tables for the food and have a few garbage cans available.
- Decide whether you will coordinate or if everyone will bring their own tables and chairs, plates, cutlery and cups, beverages. If using barbecues, who will bring them?
- Decide if pets are allowed.
- Be ready to oversee the clean up after the event.

6. ACTIVITIES DURING THE EVENT

What should we do during the event?

- Visit and eat. Over the centuries, food has always had a very social component in communities.
- Games for kids (some organized, some they can plan themselves).
*Sidewalk chalk, Corn Hole, Hula Hoops, Bubbles.
- Take time to introduce one another and point to one's house. This can be done in a game format.
- Music is key!!! Having an upbeat playlist helps people engage in new relationships.

For a suggested playlist or list of game ideas visit NEBC.CH/BlockParty

7. FOLLOW UP

Beginning relationships is important but your ultimate goal is honest conversation & life change. For this reason you want to win in the area of Follow up/Follow through.

Determine together how you will:

- Pray for families/individuals by name.
- Send a note or card thanking them for attending your party.
- Invite individuals/families for a personal dinner.
- Share your story of faith & ask questions to better understand where they are in their spiritual journey.

Consider the season which best summarizes where they are in their faith journey by visiting nebc.ch/pathway



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