

Game Ideas

Plan games that will encourage interaction and include as many age groups as possible.

- ★ **Neighborhood Bingo**—Have cards with questions about neighbors in the squares. You'll need handouts and pens. If you get five correct answers in a row, you win.
- ★ **Neighbor of the Year** award
- ★ **The "est" Game**—Ask questions about who has lived on the block the longest, who is the tallest, who has the biggest pet, whose last name is the longest/shortest, etc.
- ★ Coloring or sidewalk **art contest**
- ★ **Neighborhood Trivia**—You'll need handouts and pens. Provide a list of questions about Richfield or your block (make it multiple choice).
- ★ **Concentration**—You'll need a tray, paper, pencils, and some common household items. Lay the items on a tray and pass around to all players. Remove tray from sight and have participants list what they remember. Give extra points or break ties by asking specific questions like what flavor sucker, etc.

VEAP Food Drive

Consider including a VEAP non-perishable food collection in your Night To Unite plans! Choose a theme and make a difference in the lives of residents in Richfield. Possible themes: Soups On — dried beans, dried rice, canned vegetables and pasta; Breakfast Time — peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal; Oh Baby — diapers, baby food, wipes, baby cereal and formula; You're KID...ding — Macaroni and Cheese, canned fruit and brownie mix; Hygiene Helpers — toilet paper, facial tissue, laundry soap, shampoo and lotion.

Food can be donated at the VEAP warehouse at 9731 James Ave. So., Bloomington Mon., and Thurs., (9AM to 6:30 PM) and Tues., Wed., Fri., (9AM to 4PM)
If you have questions, please contact Nathan Rust at 952-888-9616 x105.

Neighbors Serving Neighbors in Need

Please Note

- ★ Due to the large number of Richfield neighborhoods that participate in MN's Night To Unite, we are unable to accommodate specific requests (i.e., squad cars at a specific time to lead a kiddy parade). We will do our best to have someone visit every gathering that has registered!
- ★ In 2003, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill stating that the location of MN's Night To Unite is public information. We will provide individuals requesting the information with a list of Night To Unite gatherings in Richfield and their general location (no specific addresses or names).

★ If you have any questions, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 612-861-9845 or jmecklenburg@cityofrichfield.org.

MINNESOTA'S NIGHT TO UNITE Planning Kit 2011



It's time to start planning your neighborhood's second annual Night To Unite celebration!

Join neighborhoods around Minnesota in celebrating Minnesota's Night To Unite on **Tuesday, August 2!**

If you decide to use this statewide demonstration as an occasion to get together for your Neighborhood Watch social gathering, the enclosed information will help you and your neighbors plan. Remember, according to Richfield's Neighborhood Watch charter agreements, each group agrees to meet at least once a year for a social gathering so you can stay in touch with each other. These requirements help maintain the credibility and effectiveness of our Neighborhood Watch program for the mutual benefit of all members.

What's Inside?

- ★ Your Block Party Registration and Barricade Request Form
- ★ Ideas for planning your Night To Unite event
- ★ A blank flyer to use as an invitation
- ★ Party and game ideas

Important Deadline

★ **Tuesday, July 26—Register your party with the Police Department**
Complete the Registration Form and return it to: Jill Mecklenburg, 6700 Portland Ave S, Richfield, MN 55423. **It's important to register so we can do our very best to send a Police or Fire Department representative to your party.**

Barricade Requests: There are a limited number of cones for barricades. Requests will be granted on a first come, first served basis. As in years past, we strongly recommend hosting parties in yards, garages or driveways. Thank you for your cooperation!

If you have questions, please contact Jill Mecklenburg at 612-861-9845.

Getting Started

In the past, Richfield neighborhoods have come together for potluck dinners, ice cream socials, lemonade parties, barbecues, swimming pool parties, etc. Use your imagination and plan something fun! A successful block party is not difficult. It just takes a little motivation, some planning, a lot of cooperation, and the willingness to enjoy time with your neighbors.

Get Help

The sooner you start planning, the better. You also stand a better chance of getting help. Consider inviting a few neighbors to your home to discuss planning the party. Not only will you find helpers, you will also find out how many people are interested in attending.

Get Organized

Save yourself time and last-minute headaches by putting others in charge of:

- ☆ Activities (be sure activities will include everyone and will promote conversation)
- ☆ Kids' entertainment (assign the older children to plan children's games and activities)
- ☆ Logistics (i.e., tables, chairs, bug repellent, grills, coolers, utensils, ice, etc.)
- ☆ Food
- ☆ Invitations/Flyers
- ☆ Clean-up

You can do whatever your block wants, but the best advice is to KEEP IT SIMPLE. This event is supposed to be fun! Enjoy the evening with your neighbors.

Make an invitation or use the enclosed invitation.

Simply fill it in with the details of your gathering, make copies, and distribute them to your neighbors.

Prizes

All NTU registrations that are turned in **BEFORE** Tuesday, July 26, will be entered into a Block Party Prize Kit Drawing. The prize kit will include two free large pizzas from Broadway Pizza and a case of pop.

And don't forget...police officers, firefighters, and other City personnel will hand out special items for everyone as they visit parties during MN's Night To Unite!

Helpful Suggestions

- ☆ Use name tags to help everyone learn names. Include activities that encourage people to meet each other.
- ☆ Set a beginning and end time so people know how much time they need to commit. If they are having fun, they can always stay longer.
- ☆ Take time during the event to thank everyone for coming. Introduce guests and ask neighbors to introduce themselves.
- ☆ Have handouts (many are available online or from the Police Department).
- ☆ Remind neighbors to **lock their doors and turn on their front lights** while they're at the party.

Don't forget...

to register your celebration with the Richfield Police Department by **Tuesday, July 26**. If you have questions regarding Night To Unite, contact Jill at 612-861-9845 or jmecklenburg@cityofrichfield.org.

Theme Parties & Food Ideas

- ☆ Many block parties use a **potluck** format, but your neighbors might have some other great ideas. An easy way to avoid too many tuna casseroles is to assign each household to bring one dish, such as an appetizer, salad, main dish, side dish, dessert, or beverage. Or have odd-numbered addresses bring something from column A and the even numbers from column B.
- ☆ **BBQ**—Set up a few grills and everyone brings their own meat or veggies to grill. In addition, each neighbor brings a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.
- ☆ **Community Menu** (like a "dinner club")—Plan a menu and assign each household a specific food, beverage or paper products. Request copies of the recipes to share with each other. This method works well with a theme party.
- ☆ Make it a **dessert-only** event (include fruit for special diets).
- ☆ **Cater it**—Take up a collection and cater your party. Once you know how many neighbors to expect and how much you want to spend per person, place your order (pizza, subs, ribs, chicken, etc.).
- ☆ Have a **root beer float or ice cream** party. Have assorted sprinkles so kids (and adults) can decorate their ice cream.
- ☆ Invite a **neighboring block** that doesn't have a block captain to join you. Show them how much fun it is to have a MN Night To Unite block party, so they will have one next year.
- ☆ Invite **former neighbors** who have moved away.
- ☆ Identify **special talents** in your neighborhood. You may be living next to a magician, singer, artist, or prize-winning cook.
- ☆ Have a **"Come As You Were" theme**—Neighbors dress "in costume" as they looked during a particular decade! Collect old pictures and make a photo board.

Imagine the possibilities!

