

Neighborhood Ideas

Kid-Friendly

Host a block party - There are lots of ways to do this from providing everything yourself to “Bring Your Own Meat” to having a potluck. Check out the Block Party packet on this website for step by step instructions: <http://artofneighboring.com/resources>

Board Game Night- Who doesn't love a good game of UNO or Trivial Pursuit? Encourage some friendly competition by hosting a board game night at your house or in your community room/building (or outdoors if the weather cooperates). You can provide drinks and snacks, or, if your budget is tight, have a potluck and encourage people to bring a dish to share.

Car Wash- Do a FREE neighborhood car wash at your apartment complex or community center. Invite families and kids to work together. Engage your neighbors and invite them to church. Be sure to clear your event with management first!

Movie Under the Stars - Take advantage of the cool and crisp weather and plan an outdoor movie night. Rent an outdoor movie screen and provide the movie, soft drinks, and popcorn. Invite neighbors to bring blankets, lawn chairs and additional snacks.

Door-to-door Sunday morning paper and coffee- Before you come to church one week, pick up about a dozen extra copies of the Sunday paper one week with a couple of gallons of coffee from Panera, Starbucks, etc. Use a dolly or wagon to deliver them to neighbors who don't have a newspaper in their driveway.

Food Pantry Collection-Download the Food Pantry most needed list and drop it off at each neighbors doorstep. Set a date for neighbors to show up for coffee & donuts, bring donations, socialize, then at the end, get several volunteers to help deliver the items received.

Thank You to a Community 1st responder (Fire Fighters, Police Officers), or Teachers baked treats or basket of fruit and breads are rarely refused. Ask for donations, gather goods over coffee & donuts, then deliver to the local station in your neighborhood.

Sports-related Ideas

Sports Tournament- Does your complex have a basketball court or a field? Do you have a large yard for playing? Host a neighborhood tournament (this is a huge hit in apartment communities). It can be for kids or adults. Basketball, soccer, volleyball, badminton, cornhole – there are lots of choices!

Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt- A neighborhood scavenger hunt for kids can be really fun! It takes place in a neighborhood and/or town or a nearby park. At the neighborhood scavenger hunt, divide everyone into teams and give each team a list full of things the kids need to find around the neighborhood and park.

March Madness - Take advantage of all the basketball on in March and invite neighbors over to watch it with you. See the Basketball Outreach idea document for specific ideas.

Ideas for Women

Casserole Swap- Freezing make-ahead meals for busy weeknights can be a daunting job, even for the most efficient and organized cooks. Turn this chore into a party by inviting friends over to sample and

swap frozen casseroles. To make sure there is a wide range of dishes to choose from, assign each guest a different casserole to bring. Each participant will cook two batches of her assigned casserole: one to freeze and swap, and one to enjoy at the party. This way, everyone gets to try each casserole and pick one to take home.

Closet Clean Out- Finding time to drop off clothes to the local donation center can be a challenge! So invite each resident to bring as many new or gently used items to your house or community center to be donated to Note in a Pocket or another great non-profit. Sort your donations while having snacks and drinks. If you want to go beyond simply donating clothes, a good incentive would be to help residents “Fill Up” their closet, too! Invite local businesses or boutiques to come and show off their clothing.

Craft Party- Craft parties are great for communities because they allow people to actually build something, which provides a bond between neighbors. Every time your neighbors see or use that item, they think back positively on the event, which is more powerful than most summer parties! So check out Pinterest and go for it!

Cookie Exchange- Who said a cookie exchanges were just for the holidays?! Invite neighbors to participate by making 3 dozen cookies. Have a taste test fellowship. Then, take those cookies to the neighbors who didn't attend along with an invite to church or the Fall Festival. Or just eat them!

Clean Up!

House Cleaning- Recruit some friends or neighbors and do house work for an elderly neighbor or single Mom.

Pick Up Litter- Clean up a playground, plant flowers at your subdivision entrance, give some TLC to a neighbor's yard.

Outside Cleaning - Recruit some friends or neighbors and offer to help neighbors with different outside cleaning projects. Some ideas are offering to clean gutters, clean out garages, or wash the outside of windows to different neighbors.

Flower power – With it being the beginning of spring and people starting to work in their yards, buy a few flats of flowers and take them around to neighbors and offer to plant some of them in the yard for them.

Dog Wash – Choose a central spot in your neighborhood where you will wash your neighbors' dogs for free for a couple of hours. It's usually easy to connect with people over their pets. Finish off the wash with a doggie treat for Fido!