

Game Ideas

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

- ★ **Neighbor Bingo** — Have cards with answers in each of the squares. There are free “neighbor bingo” templates online or you can customize your own cards—search free bingo card generator. Be creative! Sample answers could include:
 - Has lived on block 10+ years
 - Plays a musical instrument
 - Is CPR certified
 - Has appeared on television
 - Has visited Alaska
 - Is a grandparent
 - Drives a red car
 - Speaks more than one language
- ★ **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.
- ★ **Neighbor of the Year Award** — Recognize someone who helps neighbors or did something extraordinary.
- ★ **Neighborhood Trivia** — You’ll need handouts and pens (tell neighbors ahead of time to bring pens or pencils). Provide a list of questions about Richfield and your block (make it multiple choice).
- ★ **“Two Truths and One Lie”** — Taking turns, the first person tells three statements, two that are true and one that is not. Everyone indicates which statement is a lie by holding up one, two or three fingers.
- ★ **Glass Half Full** — Ask each person to share one positive outcome that was a result of the stay at home order.
- ★ **Simon Says** — it’s an oldie but a goodie! Get both adults and kids to play.



Free Park Shelter Rental

Have you considered hosting your Night to Unite party at a nearby park shelter? If so, we have great news! Rental fees for picnic shelters will be waived the evening of August 1st and there are four park options: Augsburg (2), Fairwood, Monroe, and Sheridan. Picnic shelters have 3+ picnic tables each. Book your park facility today by calling 612-861-9395. Additional park building and shelter information is available at www.RichfieldMN.gov/parkrentals.

Please Note—We are unable to accommodate specific requests for squad cars or fire trucks. We do our best to visit every gathering that has registered! However, priority is given to official Crime Watch blocks.

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 parties in Richfield and their general location (no specific addresses or names).



MINNESOTA'S NIGHT TO UNITE August 6th Planning Kit 2024

It's time to start planning your neighborhood's annual block party!

Please join neighborhoods across Minnesota in celebrating Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 6!

PLEASE register your block party online and request cones at www.RichfieldMN.gov/ntu. If you don't have access to online registration, please call 612-861-9845 for assistance.

We're looking forward to celebrating Night to Unite with you and your neighbors. The enclosed information will help you plan a GREAT party.

What's Inside?

- ★ Ideas and tips for planning your Night to Unite party
- ★ A blank flyer to use as an invitation
- ★ Party and game ideas

Important Deadline

- ★ **Tuesday, July 23— Register your party with the Police Department**

Complete the Night to Unite (NTU) Registration Form online. **It's important to register your party so we can do our very best to send a Police, Fire, or Council representative to your party.**

Barricade Requests: The City owns a limited number of cones. As in years past, we strongly recommend hosting parties in yards, garages or driveways, so we can avoid cone rental fees and save tax payer money. Thank you for your cooperation!

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

Richfield Crime Prevention Unit • 612-861-9845 • jmecklenburg@RichfieldMN.gov



Getting Started

A successful block party takes a little motivation, some planning and cooperation, and the willingness to enjoy time with your neighbors. **Please talk to your neighbors to determine if they'd like to grill out, do a potluck or even order pizzas. Remain flexible. Some families may want to bring their own food/beverage.**



Get Help

Collaborate with a few neighbors to determine everyone's comfort level and plan the party details from there.

Get Organized

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

- ★ Activities (be sure activities will include everyone and will promote conversation)
- ★ Kids entertainment (assign older children to supervise children's games and activities)
- ★ Food
- ★ Logistics (i.e., tables, chairs, grills, bug spray, coolers, plates, utensils, ice, etc.)
- ★ Invitations/Flyer—use the enclosed invitation or make your own
- ★ Clean-up

Plan whatever your block wants, but the best advice is to **KEEP IT SIMPLE**. This event is supposed to be fun!

Focus on Safety and Crime Prevention for YOUR Block or Apartment Community

Crime prevention, personal safety, and reinforcing the strong partnership between the police and the Richfield community are our focus throughout the entire year!

If you host a NTU party, while gathered with neighbors, it's a perfect time to discuss home security — lights, locks, landscaping.

For detailed information on numerous crime prevention and safety topics, visit www.RichfieldMN.gov/cpu.

Helpful Suggestions

- ★ Ask neighbors to introduce themselves and use name tags to help everyone learn names. Include socially distanced activities that encourage people to meet each other.
- ★ Set a beginning and end time so people know how much time they need to commit.
- ★ Take time during the event to thank everyone for coming.
- ★ Have handouts (many are available online at www.RichfieldMN.gov/cpu or in the Police Department lobby).
- ★ Remind neighbors to **lock their doors and turn on their front lights** while they're at the party.

Group E-Mail or Text

During your block party is a great time to get everyone's email or cell number in order to set up a neighborhood "group email or text." Recruit someone to keep neighbors without email or cell phones informed of events and information.

Food Ideas & Theme Parties

- ★ Many block parties use a **potluck** format, but your neighbors may 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 break down assignments by odd and even-numbered addresses.
- ★ **Brown bag party**—Everyone brings their own meal in a bag.
- ★ **BBQ**—Set up a few grills and everyone brings their own meat or veggies to grill. In addition, each neighbor brings a side dish, salad or dessert to share
- ★ **Desserts party!**—Include fruit & GF options
- ★ **Theme Party**—Ask everyone to come dressed according to the theme:
 - ⇒ Decade (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, etc.)
 - ⇒ Favorite Musician
 - ⇒ Favorite Storybook Character
 - ⇒ Favorite Hat
 - ⇒ Favorite Sports Team
 - ⇒ Hawaiian / Tropical
- ★ **Identify special talents** in your neighborhood. You may be living next to a magician, singer, musician, etc.
- ★ **Invite a neighboring block** that doesn't have Crime Watch on their street. Encourage them to join their program.
- ★ **VEAP Collection**—Collect non-perishable foods, including dry and canned goods, toiletries, cleaning supplies, diapers, laundry soap, and shampoo. Donate to the VEAP warehouse at 9600 Aldrich Ave S, Bloomington.
- ★ **Reach Out**—Discuss ways neighbors on your block can support each other. Does someone need help with lawn mowing, raking leaves, or shoveling snow? Does someone need to be checked on or need assistance with running errands? It's important for each of us to adapt to changing conditions in a way that's safe and comfortable for ourselves, our families and neighbors.

