

# 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.
- ★ **Balloon Relay**—You'll need two large plastic trash bags, a bag of balloons (two colors, one for each team), and two chairs. Form a start point and turn-around point, placing the chairs at the turn-around point. Have each team form a line behind the starting line. At the signal, one person from each team runs (walks) with a balloon to the chair, sits on the balloon, bursts it, runs back, and tags the next player. Continue until each player has done the relay. The first team to finish, wins.
- ★ **“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.
- ★ **Tried and True Favorites**—Water balloon toss, hula hoop contest, musical chairs, or best recipe awards.
- ★ **Treasure Hunt**—Find hidden articles, locations or places by using a series of clues.



## Free Picnic Shelter Rental

Have you considered hosting your Night to Unite party at a nearby park? If so, we have great news! Rental fees for picnic shelters will be waived the evening of Aug. 6 for Night to Unite activities. Picnic shelters have 3+ picnic tables each. Book your park facility today by calling 612-861-9396. Additional park building and shelter information is available at [www.RichfieldMN.gov/parkrentals](http://www.RichfieldMN.gov/parkrentals).

### 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).



# MINNESOTA'S NIGHT TO UNITE Planning Kit 2019

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

Join neighborhoods around Minnesota in celebrating Minnesota's Night To Unite on **Tuesday, August 6!**

**You may register your block party online at [www.RichfieldMN.gov/ntu](http://www.RichfieldMN.gov/ntu) and you no longer need to obtain neighbors' signatures for the cone barricades.** Of course, you may still register by turning in the enclosed registration form.

Everyone is looking forward to a great Night to Unite celebration this year; the enclosed information will help you and your neighbors plan a GREAT party.

### 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 23—Register your party with the Police Department**

Complete the Registration Form Online or 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.

## Is YOUR Block or Apartment Focused on Safety and Crime Prevention?

Crime prevention, personal safety and reinforcing the strong partnership between police and the community are our focus throughout the entire year! Let's celebrate it during Night to Unite!

The Richfield Police Department would like to see every block and multi-housing complex throughout Richfield host an annual MN Night to Unite gathering.

For detailed information on numerous crime prevention and safety topics, visit us at [www.RichfieldMN.gov/cpu](http://www.RichfieldMN.gov/cpu).

# 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.

## 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.

# 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.
- ☆ **VEAP Collection**—Collect non-perishable foods, toiletries or cleaning supplies. Dry and canned goods, diapers, laundry soap, and shampoo are always appreciated. Donate to the VEAP warehouse at 9600 Aldrich Ave. So., Bloomington.
- ☆ 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.

## Prizes

All NTU registrations that are turned in **BEFORE** Tuesday, July 23, will be entered into a Block Party Prize Kit Drawing. The drawing for the prize kits will take place at the Block Captains meeting on July 23.

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

Encourage neighbors to "like" us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/RichfieldPD](http://www.facebook.com/RichfieldPD)  
and "follow us" on Twitter  
<http://twitter.com/RichfieldPD>

