



# BLOCK PARTY Toolkit



# BLOCK PARTY TOOLKIT



## Why host a block party?

Block Parties are an excellent way for neighbours to connect. When you know your neighbours, you feel a greater connection to your community. You can exchange skills and resources and it's a great crime prevention approach. It's fun and no prior experience is needed in order to host.

### 1. Work Together

- The idea of a neighbourhood Block Party is to bring neighbours together, so the first step is to create an organizing committee.
- The Organizing Committee can also act as the greeters at the party. They can introduce neighbours and help people make connections.

### 2. Plan the Logistics

- Set a date, time & location.
  - ◆ If at all possible, use a common public space. This will increase the likelihood of shared responsibility for the event. Safety for all participants needs to be an important factor when determining a location.

#### Options:

- ◆ Public roadway (complete a Temporary Road Closure Application and get neighbours' permission)
- ◆ Common room in a condo unit



- ◆ House
- ◆ Garage
- ◆ A neighbour's yard
- ◆ Park or common area

# BLOCK PARTY TOOLKIT



- Choosing a theme is also a fun addition.
- Decide on the food
  - ◆ Potluck - everyone brings one dish to share.
  - ◆ Barbecue - either the Organizing Committee collects money and purchases all food items or everyone brings their own items to BBQ.
  - ◆ Picnic - everyone brings their own meal.
  - ◆ Catered - Everyone shares the cost and the food is purchased.
  - ◆ Decide who will coordinate or if everyone will bring their own tables and chairs, plates, cutlery, cups, and beverages.
- Decide if pets are allowed.

### 3. Invite the Neighborhood

- Create an invite.
- Email, text, go door to door, or create a Facebook invite.



# BLOCK PARTY TOOLKIT



## 4. Day of Event

- Set up tables for the food and have several garbage cans available.
- Have nametags available, they can help break the ice.
- Institute a bathroom policy “everyone use his or her own”, so that home security is maintained.

## Activities for the Event

- Visit and eat.
- Take time to introduce one another and point to one's house.
- Invite crime prevention, Play Westcountry Physical Literacy group or other community organizations to set up a display.
- Plan games for kids, some organized and some they can play themselves.

Examples:

- ◆ Sidewalk chalk
  - ◆ Face painting
  - ◆ Hula hoops
  - ◆ Bean bag toss
  - ◆ Basketball
  - ◆ Fruit loop necklaces
- Encourage the talent of your neighbourhood to come forward - you may be living next to a musician, artist, magician, singer, dancer, radio host or prize-winning cook!
  - Bulletin board/Sign up sheets for special interests:
    - ◆ Babysitters (needed/ offered)
    - ◆ Interested in walking group
    - ◆ Interested in reading club
  - Encourage intergenerational participation. For example, have youth leading games for younger children, seniors and teens working the barbeques. Make sure people with disabilities can participate in activities, including their attendants (those with seeing-eye dogs or in wheelchairs).



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## Important Reminders

- Residents should observe security precautions by keeping back doors locked and equipment in sight.
- Be courteous, all neighbours may not appreciate loud music.
- Remember when setting up tables and chairs that emergency vehicles must have access.
- You may wish to post signs the day before the event to remind everyone to remove their cars if the street is being used.
- Alcohol is only permitted on private property, not on Town streets or in parks.
- If you intend to use the street or alley in any way, a Temporary Road Closure Application can be found on Town website, under Block Party Tool Kit Resources. Application must be submitted to the Infrastructure & Operations Department and are subject to approval.

## Additional Information

### Community Resources

FCSS  
403.845.3720

Table and Chair Rentals  
Recreation & Community Services  
403.845.3720

Temporary Road Closures  
Infrastructure & Operations  
403.845.3220

Town of Rocky Mountain House  
[info@rockymtnhouse.com](mailto:info@rockymtnhouse.com)  
403.845.2866

