

THEME PARTIES

A theme party is a party gathered around a single theme that guides the behavior of guests or hosts.

Importance of 'checklist' for theme parties:

There are many things to do in preparation for any party and a party checklist is just the right organizational tool for this job. First prioritize the individual categories and place them on the list in order of preparation time required. Some things on the list will not be prepared but rather placed on the list by the amount of advance notice required. Time needed to ship things will also be used for this purpose.

For large and complicated plans there needs to be more than just one party checklist. An entire wedding planner/loose leaf notebook is needed for a wedding but individual party checklists can be made up for individual tasks and contracted individuals. For instance a checklist for floral arrangement would include entries for initial meeting with florist; show floral brochures to party planner; pre-pay one half; and supervise floral decoration of church. Parts of this list would even be delegated to someone else who has time to oversee the church decoration.

An individual party checklist is needed for the invitations to any large party. A family reunion can be a very complex party to organize. Large families with members in many different locations may require a team effort just to assemble a guest list. The party checklist is going to be a series of checklists in this case. The invitation checklist will include: assemble addresses; meet with printer; pick up invitations; proofread invitations; address invitations; and mail invitations.

Of course simpler parties require a less extensive list. Nevertheless even a child's birthday party requires the fundamental use of a simple party checklist in order to plan with the ease that makes a smooth progression of tasks. The list is shorter but woe is to the hostess who forgets to place "pick up cake" on it! Centerpieces.

The main steps for throwing a theme party are:

- * Choose a theme
- * Invitations / Guest List
- * Menu—Food and Drinks
- * Decorations
- * Music
- * Games
- * Prizes

All of the following things should be taken into consideration when choosing a theme:

- * Where the party will be held?
- * Who the party in honor of?
- * Who will the guests be?

A theme may just pop out at you from those questions alone, but if not, you need to start thinking outside of the box. That's what makes theme parties fun. They are imaginative and inspiring.

Here are some things to think about when you can't decide on a theme:

- * What's going on in the world?
- * Is it an election year?
- * Is your favorite sports team in the championships?
- * What is the hot new television show that everyone is talking about?

These are all jumping off points for choosing a theme. You can host a backyard baseball barbeque in honor of your favorite team, or theme your party around a favorite television show.

Choosing a theme for your party is only as limited as your imagination. You can even mix two or three themes, as long as you can get them all to work together. Make up a list of ideas. Sometimes you will see a recurring theme when you have a list of possibilities.

Menu — Food and Drinks

When possible, try to keep the theme of your party in mind when choosing the food and drinks. Theme parties based on a certain time period can include the popular food and drink of that era. You can also change the names of your foods to suit your theme. You can serve "Freedom Fries" or "Couch Potato Salad". Ask friends for help with catchy names for your menu. They may even offer to bring a dish!

After you have decided on what foods will be served, make up a menu list that includes:

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|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Hors d'oeuvres | 2. Drinks |
| 3. Appetizers | 4. Salads |
| 5. Entrees | 6. Vegetables |
| 7. Bread | 8. Desserts |
| 9. Condiments | |

Next to your choices, be sure to include information on where you can locate recipes for each dish, if needed. From this main list you can then plan your shopping list. You can also decide if you can prepare some dishes ahead of time and freeze them.

Think of fun ways to decorate the food itself. Stick flags into food at a golf theme party, or shape a cheese ball into a football design. Marshmallows can be turned into snowmen, and you can create a caterpillar design by using snowball cupcakes.

Arrange them in a snake-like fashion on a platter, and add licorice pieces for the legs, gumdrops for the eyes, and make a mouth by adding a bended pipe cleaner into shape. You can also use pipe cleaners for antennae, with gum drops on top of them.

When serving food, try to think of items that are relevant to your theme that you can use in a different way. You can make chocolate pudding and top it off with chocolate cookie crumbs with gummy worms "crawling" out of it. Serve it in a new, and washed out, plastic children's bucket using a plastic shovel to dish it out.

Empty coconut shells can be used as bowls, and plastic batting or football helmets can be lined with plastic as serving bowls. You can use flowerpots, tea cups, cowboy hats, anything that will add a fun touch to your banquet table. Wheel barrels can be filled with ice to hold canned beverages, and canning jars can be used as glasses at a country-theme barbeque.

Decorations

When planning a theme party, choosing the right decorations is one of the most important details. The decorations will set the whole theme for your party. Even the greatest actors need the proper scene setting to be believable. Pretend you are building a set for a school play.

You can use inexpensive materials to get the effect that you are looking for. Remember, you are just trying to set a scene. There is no need to remodel the whole house! You should, however, try to add a little touch of the theme to your bathrooms, or any other rooms of your house where your guests may visit.

Once again, you need to consider using items in different ways. Cover a table in a blanket of white fleece to create a fake-snow effect, use crystal votive holders that look like ice, and sprinkle plastic snow throughout your house for a "Winter Wonderland" party.

Spooky ghosts can be made by turning a tomato cage upside down. Add a ball of batting to the top, and secure a yard stick through the center to create arms. Drape an old white sheet over the top, and tie a length of string around his neck. Dry ice is inexpensive, and can create quite an affect when you are hosting a spooky theme party.

Music

Like proper decorations, the right music, just as proper decorations, also helps to set the mood. Period music should be played at parties that are celebrating a particular era. A 50's party just wouldn't seem right when your guests are dressed in poodle skirts, and Metallica is playing in the background. Take some time to make out lists of songs and use them to create your own CDs to play.

Games

Including games at your party will not only break the ice and help to get your party going, but they can also allow your friends get better acquainted with one another. Fun games to play can include a balloon toss, scavenger hunt, and Guess Who?

To play the Guess Who game, have your guests fill out a questionnaire that you have made up. Include questions like, "What is your favorite color? Favorite movie? Favorite sport?" You should also include some more complex questions, such as: "What world leader would you like to exchange places with?" or "Who would you take with you to a desert island?"

Another fun Guess Who type of game is to try to identify guests from their baby pictures. Ask guests to bring a baby picture of themselves. With blue low-tack painter's tape, attach a small piece of tape to the back of each picture, designating each with a different number. Pass the pictures around during the party, and have your guests make up lists with their guesses.

Prizes

Inexpensive prizes can be purchased at dollar stores or party supply outlets. Try to keep with the theme when choosing gifts as well. Make up goodie bags for larger prizes by including a few different gifts. Be sure that everyone that attends your party receives a prize, or a small gift to take home. You can also make up party favors that fit the theme of your party. These will act as a fun reminder of your party for your guests.

Different theme party ideas:

Anniversary Party Ideas:

* A Walk Through The Ages – Guests can dress in styles from the year that the couple was married. Create a movie with musical accompaniment by using their wedding song and pictures of their lives together.

* Memory Lane Treasure Hunt – Place clues in spots that are meaningful to the couple. Each clue should lead the couple to the next destination point, with the final destination being the restaurant or home where the anniversary celebration will take place.

* Card Party – For those couples that have friends and family that are spread out far and wide, plan a card party. Contact all of the couples friends and relatives at least one month in advance. Ask them to send a card with to you. Compile all of the cards into a gift package for the couple. You can make a scrapbook out of the cards by including pictures.

* Kids Party Ideas:

* Baseball Party – Make a round cake using a metal oven proof bowl, or use cupcakes. Decorate with white frosting, and add red icing for the stitching detail. Serve hot dogs and nachos with cheese. Ice cream can be dished out into small plastic baseball hats.

* Backyard Carnival – Set up a carnival with games that kids can play like knocking over milk bottles, bean bag toss, ring toss and a ping pong ball toss using egg cartons that have been painted with different colors. Serve cotton candy and taffy. Have a friend dress up like a clown to really add some fun.

* Cowboys & Indians – Create a teepee in your yard by using large branches and sheets. Kids can design their own cowboy or Indian vests by using markers to decorate paper bags from the grocery store. Cut off the bottom of the bag, and cut open the center. Lay the bag flat, and fold the ends over like a vest. Cut out neck and large armholes. Round the front and the back, and fringe the bottom. Tape the shoulders together.

* Fashion Doll Party – A round cake baked in a metal bowl can be turned into a skirt by inserting an 11 ½ inch fashion doll's legs into the top. Wrap the dolls legs in plastic wrap before inserting into the cake, and cover the doll with plastic wrap while you are frosting the cake. Include smaller dolls as party favors for all of the guests.

Indian Theme party menus normally consists of:

Drinks: You can serve Soft Drinks or some Mocktails or cocktails

Appetizers: For Appetizers, you can serve Spring Rolls or Potato chips or Cheese rolls or the Indian Veg Pakoras or Chicken Tikka or Paneer Tikka or Veg/Non veg Kebabs.

Main Course: In the Main Course, you can serve Pizza or Pasta or Noodles or Hamburgers or Sandwiches and a good Non-veg dish. You can also serve an Indian meal including Dal Makhani, Paneer, Chicken, Tandoori roti, Naan and Rice.

Dessert: You can serve Chocolate cake or Ice cream or Trifle Pudding or Chocolate Mousse or Custard or the very Indian Kheer or some nice Halwa.

Coffee/Tea: After the meal is over, you can serve coffee or tea, depending on the preference of your guests.

However, one thing has to be kept in mind that both vegetarian as well as non-vegetarian dishes in menu. So that everyone can enjoy the meal.