



# 2016 Ontario's National Night Out

## Block Party Guide

ONTARIO

NIGHT OUT



# 2016 ONTARIO'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

## Mission Statement:

National Night Out is an annual event on the first Tuesday of August that involves all segments of the community in building a healthier, safer community. The event generates support for anti-crime programs and strengthens police/community relations.

## Background:

National Night Out is not just one night of the year, but the culmination of year-long crime prevention activities in all Ontario neighborhoods: people working together in Neighborhood Watch groups in single family residential neighborhoods, apartments, condominiums, mobile homes and other networks to address and prevent crime and other neighborhood problems. It is an occasion to celebrate past successes; discuss current challenges or issues; and re-dedicate to collaborate efforts with neighbors, police, other public safety agencies, city and county agencies, businesses and others to improve the quality of life in our City. National Night Out is the largest event of its kind in Ontario and the nation. The City of Ontario was the 1st Southern California city to receive national recognition for its participation in the event. Ontario has been ranked among the top five cities in the nation for our activities during this event for the last 25 years!



## Key Messages:

- Cohesive, healthy neighborhoods are keys to preventing crime and violence.
- Active Neighborhood Watch groups build community, increase hope, and create harmony.
- Positive activities displace negative activities; as people spend more time outside, they take back their streets and neighborhoods.
- National Night Out is an opportunity for all parts of the community, including businesses, corporate sponsors, religious institutions, city agencies and news media to come together around a shared goal of a safe, healthy community.
- National Night Out reinforces the partnership of citizens and police to combat crime.

## Goals:

- Utilize National Night Out to expand and strengthen Ontario's network of Neighborhood Watch Groups.
- Increase the number of Neighborhood Watch Groups, multi-block events and individuals who participate in Ontario Night Out.
- Involve the Ontario Police Department with citizens by participating in Ontario Night Out together.
- Involve other public safety agencies, city, county and state agencies with citizens by participating in Ontario Night Out events.
- Promote increased involvement of youth with their neighbors.
- Promote crime prevention strategies and increase ways that citizens can protect themselves and their property.

# MAKING YOUR EVENT A SUCCESS

## Increasing attendance:

- Personally invite your neighbors to help with NNO planning.
- Get more people involved in your event by asking them to do little things.
- People who help you plan may have connections with neighbors you do not know as well; they may draw new people to the event.
- Tailor your event to the people living on your block.
- Invite all the neighbors well in advance and in person. People are much more likely to participate when asked in person instead of reading about the event in a flyer or e-mail message.
- Invite the owners/managers and tenants of all rental property on your block.
- Encourage involvement from businesses on or near your block.
- Create or update your block contact list while extending your invitation.
- If there are people on your block who do not speak English, see if someone on the block can help interpret.
- Invite a nearby block that did not participate in NNO last year.
- Start your event by having kids (with adult supervision) go door-to-door to remind neighbors, particularly households that have not attended in the past.
- If you find a successful way to increase attendance, please let us know so we can share it with others.

## Increasing attendance:

- Have kids plan part of your event.
- Have kids design a flyer, poster, or lawn sign for your block's NNO event. If you want, have a contest and give prizes for the best design.
- Have a kid's activity on NNO such as singing, dancing, poetry skit, etc.
- Have a discussion with the kids about where they think they will be living and or what they will be doing in 25 years.
- Ask kids what they think their neighborhood will be like in 25 years.
- Give certificates and/or prizes to kids for the good things they have done during the year.

## Before and after NNO:

- Remember the names of the kids on your block and greet them when you see them.
- Be an outstanding neighbor - encourage youth to join adults in community projects.
- Encourage and support youth sharing their talents with the community.
- Find out about and support youth activities (sports, concerts, debates, art shows, reading programs, etc.).
- Have a regularly scheduled game or movie night once a week or once a month, where all can have fun.
- Ask a youth center, art gallery, church, or business to have a day for youth on the block to display their art.
- Learn when the library has story time and take the children on the block there.

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ACTIVITY IDEAS

## Simple Refreshments:

- Bring your favorite snack
- Coffee, tea, and dessert
- Cookie exchange
- Fruit and cheese plates
- Hot dogs and bratwurst
- Ice cream cones
- Make your own sundaes
- Lemonade and cookies
- Mini-donut stand
- Popcorn
- Potluck
- Pretzels and soda
- Root beer floats
- Watermelon

## Group Conversations:

- “Neighbor of the year” award
- Oldest resident / longest resident award
- Block e-mail list
- Block history stories
- Find block leader and McGruff volunteers
- Have an ice breaker
- Interview politicians running for office
- Neighbor trivia game with prizes for right answers
- Photos from past block parties and activities
- Share ideas accomplishments on the block
- Skill swap
- Talk about area crime concerns and keeping an eye on each other’s houses
- Update block list for people and pets
- Welcome new residents

## All-ages Activities:

- Book exchange
- Book swap
- Build a milk carton boat
- Cake walk
- Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.
- Dance / street dance
- Lawn mower beauty contest with parade
- Ring toss contest
- Live music
- Movies
- Organize a book club
- Paint an old car with water colors
- Parade
- Plant exchange
- Prizes
- Races: minnow, cotton ball, or egg on a spoon
- Recognize kids’ accomplishments
- Scavenger hunt
- Sing-along / karaoke
- Soccer
- Storytelling (truth or fiction)
- Street dance
- Talent show
- Tour the gardens on the block
- Volleyball
- Water balloon fight / toss contest
- White elephant exchange

## Activities for Youth:

- Bicycle parade / rodeo
- Chalk art
- Coloring / maze sheet
- Dime / penny guess
- Duck pond
- Face painting
- Games
- Kiddie jump (“moon walk”)
- Make banner or mural
- Piñata
- Riding bikes in streets
- Scavenger hunt
- Skits
- Talent show

## Contribute to your Community

- Beautify a common area
- Collect for a food shelf
- Cover graffiti
- Have a sign-up sheet for Operation Identification
- Nominate a block club or an individual for a crime prevention award
- Plan a fall clean-up or bulb planting
- Presentation by an arborist (Dutch elm disease, etc.)
- Recruit a McGruff House volunteer
- Sign up all ages for library cards
- Use e-mail to communicate more with your block club
- Voter registration drive



# Top 10 Reasons to Host a National Night Out Party

## **Have Fun!**

## **Organize / Maintain**

a Watch program on your street.

## **Share**

crime prevention and safety information.

## **Start**

a tradition.

## **Discover**

your neighbor's hidden talents (line dancing, guitar playing).

## **Meet**

your neighbors.

## **Increase**

the sense of belonging in your neighborhood.

## **Create**

a neighborhood e-mail directory.

## **Learn**

about neighborhood history.

## **Make**

community connections.

# BLOCK PARTY DETAILS!

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Join us for National Night Out:

On \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Time)

## What to Bring:

- Chairs
- Your own meat or vegetarian food to BBQ
- 1 salad and 1 desert to share (Make enough for \_\_\_\_ people)
- Your own beverages - coffee and tea will be provided
- Your own non-breakable plates, cups, and cultery

## Do you have any of the following?

\_\_\_\_ BBQ    \_\_\_\_ Table    \_\_\_\_ Cooler

## Do you have a talent that you would like to share with us?

## Any suggestions for activities you could organize?

Return this form by \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Simple Ways to *Go Green* at a National Night Out Block Party



## Event Type Overview:

**Number of Attendees:** 30 - 50

**Type of Activities:** Potluck / BBQ, information tables, games, and other activities.

## Ways to Go Green:

1. Provide recycling bins for cans, bottles, and other recyclables.
2. Put out containers for food waste recycling, especially if you have curbside pick-up food waste / non-recyclable paper.
3. Encourage composting food waste and compostable paper plates.
4. Ask event attendees to bring their own reusable plates and utensils from home.
5. Only serve beverages in reusable or recyclable containers.
6. E-mail information of your event to attendees to cut down paper use. If not possible, use recycled paper for your flyers (minimum 30% post-consumer content recycled paper.)
7. Encourage attendees to use local food for potluck items, such as from a farmer's market or even their own backyard garden.
8. Use decorations that can be reused in future years and limit balloon use as much as possible.
9. Provide condiments in bulk instead of individually wrapped servings / packets
10. Provide an information table with greening resources for attendees, such as information on native plants, rain gardens, solar power, and how to purchase green power from your utility company.
11. Provide information for attendees on efforts your event has made to go green and how attendees can help.



# National Night Out Evaluation Form

**We appreciate your feedback to help us plan future block parties.**

Three best things about this block party:

Three things you would change for the next event:

Ways to maintain neighborhood connections during the year:

Are you willing to help with future neighborhood event planning?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Leave this form with your block captain

At: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**