



National Night Out 2011

Tuesday, August 2nd



ATTENTION - NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CHAIRMEN!!

As many of you are aware National Night Out is celebrating its 28th Anniversary on August 2nd, 2011. The Boise Police Department has promoted this event for over 15 years.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods 'celebrate' NNO with a variety of events and activities such as:

- block parties,
- cookouts,
- visits from local police, fire fighters, paramedics, and city officials

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

If you and your neighbors are planning to participate in this event by hosting a block party, please complete and mail, fax, or email the attached Registration Form by Friday, July 22nd.

National Night Out - America's Night Out Against Crime!

National Night Out (NNO) is a unique event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and is held the first Tuesday in August. Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 37 million people participated in NNO worldwide.

Reasons To Have a NNO Block Party

1. To have fun - no excuse is needed to celebrate!
2. To meet your neighbors. When you know who lives in your neighborhood, the more likely you are to identify strangers or suspicious people.
3. To increase the sense of belonging in your neighborhood.
4. To make additional connections within the community. When you know people, you can exchange skills or resources and perhaps organize a book club, baby-sitting co-op, share walking to school duties, or find new friends for your children.
5. To visit with police and fire personnel
6. To meet some of the old time residents in the neighborhood and learn the neighborhood's history.
7. To start a yearly neighborhood tradition of getting together at least once a year.

How to Get Started

- A few months in advance, talk to neighbors and find out if there is interest in having a block party.
- Gather a few neighbors and divide up the tasks. Decide on a possible theme, activities, and food.
- Create and make the invitations and distribute to neighbors.
- Recruit volunteers.
- A few days before the event, place signs in the neighborhood reminding the neighbors of the block party.

Good Ideas

1. Assign a specific neighbor to look for and greet the officer(s), fire fighters, and city officials attending your event. Introduce them publicly or individually to the neighbors attending your party.
2. Assign specific neighbors to specific duties. Recognize the volunteers publicly, and send Thank You notes to them.
3. Consider name tags for everyone at your event. Maybe the children and teens could design/make them.
4. Consider inviting area businesses to your event.
5. Keep good records. For example: if you have a root beer float event for 50 people, keep records of how many tubs of ice cream and two-liter containers of root beer you used. This will make next year's event much easier to plan.

6. Involve children and teens. One coordinator had a great response because she told the kids in the neighborhood well in advance about the parade plans and what the kids could do to prepare.
7. Plan in advance, keep organized, and utilize volunteers.
8. Assign a neighbor to photograph your party, and then consider posting the photos on Facebook, your neighborhood website, or send photos via email to the neighbors.
9. When you send Thank You notes to businesses/organizations who have donated to your NNO party, consider including a photograph and let them know the number of people who attended your event.

Obtain Permit to Block off Your Street

http://www.cityofboise.org/Departments/City_Clerk/PDF/BusinessLicenses/secup.pdf

Click on the above link and complete the form (no payment is needed) and send, 30 days in advance, to Sgt Kyle Christensen, Boise Police Department.

Suggested Activities for Getting to Know Your Neighbors

- Invite a clown, balloon artist, or magician
- Have games using water balloons
- Rent a "Jump House"
- Do face painting (Remember to use non-toxic paint)
- Organize a kids talent show or bike parade
- Use sidewalk chalk (Make it a game for the kids and give out prizes)
- Have a safety poster contest for the kids
- Play Musical Chairs
- Ice-breaker games to include everyone. Contact Charlene for ideas or do an internet search
- Record the stories of how everyone came to live in the neighborhood and what he or she likes best about it.
- Identify those who lived in your area, such as the longest resident, artist, military personnel, youngest resident, etc.
- Involve several neighbors in the planning, organizing, set-up and tear-down in the block party. It creates more interest in the project when people have been involved.

Registration Form - National Night Out 2011

The NNO event my neighborhood will be hosting is:

Starting/ending Times of Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

When we plan block parties, it brings neighbors together and builds relationships! Have a great time planning and organizing the event with a few neighbors, and then visiting and eating with everyone on Tuesday, August 2nd.

I schedule the events that our police officers, Mayor and City Council Members will attend that evening. If you have a preference, please let me know and I will try to accommodate your request.

To schedule a visit from the fire department, contact KrieAnn Kudar, 570-6500, or email her at kkudar@cityofboise.org

Event Coordinator - Please supply me with the following:

Your Name: _____

Phone/Cell # _____

Your Address: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Comments/Requests:

Return this form by Friday July 22nd to:

Charlene Miller
Boise Police Dept,
333 Mark Stall Place, Boise 83704
Fax: 570-6119, attn: Charlene
Email: cmiller@cityofboise.org

