

# Minneapolis National Night Out

## Making your NNO event a success

### Increasing attendance

- Personally invite your neighbors to help with NNO planning.
- People who help you plan may have connections with neighbors you don't 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 properties on your block. To find out who the owners/managers are, see [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/propertyinfo](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/propertyinfo).
- Encourage involvement from businesses on or near your block.
- NNO is a great opportunity to create or update your block contact list.
- **If there are people on your block who don't speak English, see if someone on the block can help interpret. If you can't find an interpreter, call the Police Department's Spanish Liaison John Reed (612-673-5579), Somali Liaison Ahmed Hassan (612-290-3960), or Minneapolis Multicultural Services at 612-673-3737.**
- Invite a nearby block that didn't participate in NNO last year.
- **If you find a successful way to increase attendance, please let us know so we can share it with others.**

### Kids and National Night Out

- 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 kids' activity on NNO (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 or prizes to kids for the good things they've 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, poetry slams, 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.

SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE FOR MORE GOOD IDEAS.



## Provide food and refreshments

- Hot dogs and brats
- Ice cream cones/make your own sundaes
- Lemonade and cookies
- Popcorn
- Potluck
- Root beer floats
- Watermelon

## Group conversations/mixers

- Present your “Neighbor of the Year” award.
- Create a block e-mail list.
- Block history stories - ask long-time residents to talk about what the block was like years ago.
- Have an ice breaker.
- Acknowledge the newest and longest-term residents.
- Neighbor trivia game w/prizes for right answers.
- Photos from past block parties and activities.
- Share ideas and 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.

## Activities for all ages

- Book swap
- Cake walk
- Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations
- Dance
- Lawn mower beauty contest w/parade
- Ring toss contest
- Live music
- Movies
- Organize a book club
- Races (e.g., cotton ball on a spoon or an egg race)
- Paint an old car with water colors
- Parade
- Plant exchange
- Scavenger hunt

- Sing-along/karaoke
- Storytelling (truth or fiction)
- Talent show
- Volleyball
- Water balloon fights
- Water balloon toss contest

## Contribute to your community

- Beautify a common area.
- Welcome new neighbors.
- Collect for your local food shelf.
- Cover graffiti.
- Nominate a block club or an individual for a crime prevention award.
- Plan a fall clean-up or bulb planting.
- Arrange for a presentation by an arborist (Dutch elm disease, etc.).
- Find block leader volunteers.
- Sign people up for library cards.

## Be green

- Make your NNO event “green.” Use paper products made from recyclable materials.
- Have people bring their own eating utensils, plates and cups with them to reduce the amount of trash generated.
- Provide containers to recycle cans, bottles, and paper refuse from the event.
- Design graffiti-reducing landscaping.
- Mulch, water and install guards around new trees.
- Begin planning a community garden for your block.
- Order compost bins for the block.
- Promote the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs in all households on the block.
- Plant a tree.
- Check with local green groups about a presentation at your event.

Get more information on green options at [www.afs.nonprofitoffice.com](http://www.afs.nonprofitoffice.com).

Visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno) for more information on planning your NNO event.

