

Summer Party Planning



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Graduation Party Planning Tips

Graduation party planning could be about a simple celebration for a pre-school child or formal dinner for 100 family and friends celebrating the completion of a Master's degree program. No matter the milestone, a graduation party is always an important celebration as there is a lot of dedication, hard work and discipline to celebrate.

When planning a graduation party, it is very important to pay attention to the guest list. For younger children, knowing who to invite is usually not a difficult task.

As your kids get older, deciding who to invite can become more confusing and challenging. The best way to make sure the right people are invited is to ask the guest of honor who he or she would like to have at the party, in addition to any family friends or relatives.

To make managing the guest list easier, ask a couple of friends for their assistance. Have someone close to the guest of honor review the list just to make sure no one was accidentally forgotten.

You do not want to forget important family members or close friends of the guest of honor. If you are planning a surprise graduation party, ask a close friend of the guest of honor for recommendations on whom to invite to the party. You can also have the spouse or partner of the guest of honor to help you with the guest list.

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As soon as the guest list is finalized, the next step is to send invitations. If you are planning on having a surprise graduation party, make sure this is noted in the invitation and with your contact information in case anyone should have a question about the party. After all, you do not want a guest to contact the guest of honor to inquire about or confirm details about the party.

Your local party store will have many graduation decorations to choose from, so there will be no problems finding a fun and unique party favor. When decorating the cake, you can add the graduation year. If you want to add a theme to the celebration, you can turn an ordinary graduation bash into a really unique celebration by adding a Hawaiian luau, flashback, or even a sports theme.

Graduation party planning is a chance to be creative when celebrating long years of hard work and accomplishment. So put together your favorite graduation party ideas, a great group of people and take time to celebrate and acknowledge another precious milestone in life.



How to Plan a Hawaiian Luau Party

If you are looking for a unique theme for your next celebration, consider a tropical luau party theme. A Hawaiian luau party is perfect blend of casual fun with irresistible splashes of tropical flair. Let's look at a few luau party ideas to help you get started planning this fun and tropical event.

The very first step is to set the date and select a location. Although you can host a luau celebration indoors, this type of party is usually best outdoors. A poolside setting is an ideal location, but a deck or backyard will also work.

Party Invitations With a Tropical Flair

Next you will need to make a guest list and create invitations. The great thing about luau party invitations is that there are a lot of fun themed ideas to work with. For example, cut out paper in the shape of pineapples, palm trees or hula girls and glue tiny decorations onto them. You will find tiny wooden items shaped like fruit, islands and palm trees at your local craft shop that can be used for this purpose.

Tropical Flair Party Supplies & Decorations

Creating that Hawaiian tropical atmosphere is a must for your party. The easiest way to create a true luau party theme is to think color-color-color!

Decorate the table with colorful cloths and those fake grass skirts that can be purchased at the party shops.



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If you have some indoor ferns or trees bring those to the party and let them help you create the perfect tropical island look. Add lots of flowers with bright colors and large blossoms. For a final tropical touch, add a few tiki torches.

Hawaiian Luau Party Favors

An assortment of colorful leis for your guests to wear is a must have Hawaiian party favor.

Why not make your own leis, bracelets and anklets as party favors? Buy some of the tiny seashells from a craft store and add these to the leis as well.

Luau Party Food Favorites

The menu for a luau can be as simple or as exotic as you like. You will want to have at least one or two traditional luau foods. Pork is a staple at most luaus and can be the main course at your own party.

Roast plantains and fresh fruit are additional menu items that you may want to include. Make your table look really special by highlighting it with several bowls piled high with pineapples, mangoes, papayas and bananas.

A luau is meant to be a celebration of food, friendship, love and family, so do not feel restricted in foods you can serve. The menu can be

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tailored to the needs and tastes of you and your guest. Instead of a traditional roast pig, you can serve BBQ items such as hot dogs, burgers and ribs. There are even vegetarian versions of these foods available.

To add the luau party theme flair to your beverages, decorate the drinks with spears of freshly diced fruit and bright paper cocktail umbrellas. Blend of ginger ale, sherbet and fruit juice to create a delicious island inspired punch.

Luau parties are a lot of fun to plan and the luau party theme has many, many creative, imaginative touches you can add to create your own signature event. So have your guest wear their most colorful tropical shirt, greet everyone with a flower lei and a warm aloha for a fabulous Hawaiian luau party.



Wine Tasting Party Ideas

A wine tasting party is a great way to bring together friends, family and new acquaintances in a relaxed environment where people may share their love and knowledge of wine. What prevents many people from actually hosting a wine and cheese type party is that they think they have to be sommeliers to do it. But you don't need to know a lot about wine to throw a successful party. Here are a few wine tasting party ideas to get you ready to host your own wine tasting party.

How to start?

To begin with, you need to decide what type of wine tasting party you want to throw. You can either host a vertical or horizontal price point party or a wine and cheese pairing party. It all depends on your budget and the number of guests you intend to invite. Most new party host decide on a wine and cheese pairing party because they are often less serious affairs than the straight wine tasting parties.

Next, you will want to send out invitations at least a couple of weeks in advance. Like any party, it is best to ask your guests to RSVP so that you know exactly how many bottles of wine you will need.

Wine Tasting Game

One of the easiest best wine tasting party ideas is to have a simple, fun wine tasting game. Purchase or design your own tasting cards that record the type of wine, the vineyard, and the year it was produced. Make sure that

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each person has a card on which they can record the wine's appearance, taste, aroma, and overall score.

Less experienced wine tasters should probably only rate which wines they liked best and which wines that did not care for. Then they can listen and learn from the other guests and perhaps participate in more involved wine tasting and scoring at the next party.

If, however, you have an experienced group of wine tasters, you might decide to make things more challenging and insist on a blind tasting. In this instance, you still give your guest their tasting cards, but your pour all of the wines without revealing the label (simply place bottles in brown paper bags).

The goal of the wine tasting game is to correctly identify the wines based on the descriptions on the labels. The person who is able to identify the most wines wins a prize-often a fine bottle of wine.

Decorations and Activities

A great thing about this type of event is that does not require you to go all out and purchase anything you might not already have around the house. All you will need is a good-sized table and a white tablecloth on which to place all of the wines. You may also choose to light a few unscented candles to add to the mood.

As for activities, it is often a good idea to break the ice and get the evening started with a few games of wine trivia. You may award the winner of each game a small prize or party favor, like an inexpensive bottle of wine or a corkscrew (gag gift).

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Wine Tasting Party Supplies:



- Four to six bottles of wine
- Some light appetizers, such as cheese and crackers
- A few loaves of French or Italian bread
- A pitcher of water for cleaning palates between tastings
- A bucket or dumper for guests to spit wine into
- Glasses
- Grading Cards
- Pens and pencils

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Dinner Party Planning

For most parties, it's the idea of "the more the merrier." Planning a dinner party is a bit different, because a dinner party is usually much more intimate gathering. An extensive guest list can actually detract from the more relaxed atmosphere at a dinner party.

Food seems almost an after-thought for large parties, but a dinner party the focus is the food itself. With your average party, you may have people milling in and out of the kitchen, grabbing appetizers and then sitting wherever there may be room, whereas at a dinner party, everyone sits around a table together to not only enjoy the in a delicious meal, but to share in the complete dining and social experience together.

Before sending out invitations, one of the most important steps is to figure out how many guests your dining table can comfortably accommodate! As simple as this may seem, I have been to dinner parties where this fact was obviously overlooked and several of us ate with plates of food balanced on our lap.

The next step is the guest list itself. Creating the guest list for your dinner party is almost as an important as the dinner menu itself. Consider the people you are thinking of inviting. Will they mix well with one another and have enough in common to keep the party lively? A little variety is the spice of life for your dinner party, however you it's always best if your guest share something in common. And remember, the host is never indebted to invite anyone he or she does not wish to invite.

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For either a formal dinner or just to create an upscale feel, use your fine china, sterling silverware and linen tablecloths and napkins. If you don't own these items; renting them is always an option.

A nice touch to give your dining table a finished, sophisticated look is a simple but elegant centerpiece. A clear glass bowl with a single floating flower or different sizes of pillar candles grouped together are two great standbys that work with any theme or menu.

When setting the dinner table, make sure there is enough space to allow for guests pulling their chair in and out from the table. You'll want to try and make the seating as comfortable as possible if you plan to offer multiple courses, as you and your guests will be seated for a while. After finishing the main course, you might want to offer dessert and coffee in another area, such as the living room. This will give everyone the chance to mingle and the opportunity to move around a little after enjoying a large meal.

Although there are a few extra details involved, in many ways a dinner party is much easier than to plan other parties. After all, it's the company of good friends combined with the luxury of slowing savoring a meal that makes a great dinner party. As your guest begin to arrive, all the planning and preparation is behind you, so mingle, relax and enjoy the evening.

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How to Plan a Perfect BBQ Party

Barbeques are popular for events such as the 4th of July, birthday parties, receptions, and going away parties. No matter why you have decided to plan a barbeque party, the memories that will come from it are sure to stick with your guests for many years to come, provided that you plan ahead. Planning the perfect BBQ party is not difficult, as long as you follow a few simple steps.

1) First, no barbeque would be complete without guests. Plan ahead of time, checking with your potential guest for scheduling conflicts and issues. Finding a date and time that is suitable for everyone should not be too far as long as you give everyone enough advanced notice. Remember that not everyone will be able to come, no matter how much notice you give them, so do not get discouraged if you do not get as many RSVPs as you originally hoped for.

2) Be sure to check the weather for that type of year. If you live in a climate that cannot be predicted, then you may want to have a backup plan just in case unusual weather comes. You cannot predict things like rain and thunderstorms ahead of time, but you can make sure that you hold your barbeque during the time of year that will be pleasant to your guests. A barbeque in cold weather may hold more negative memories of trying to keep warm rather than good memories of family and friends.

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3) Purchase the type of meat that you will be serving at your party. You will want to have at least a couple of different kinds of meats, as everyone attending may not like a certain kind. It is usually safe to go with pork, sausage, hamburgers, and chicken. If smaller children are going to be in attendance, you should consider child friendly foods such as smaller hamburgers and hot dogs.

4) Once you have the meat purchased, you will then want to consider what type of sides you will serve. If you want a completely traditional barbeque, you may want to stick with traditional sides. Traditional barbeque sides include potatoes, potato salad, baked beans, and coleslaw. Your traditional condiment bar should include pickles, relish, and onions. These foods are typically served at barbeques because they are easy to prepare and store until the event happens. You may want to cook other items, but any barbeque is complete with just the items listed above. Once again, if children will be present, you may want to consider sides for them as well.

The simplest approach to side dishes is chips and dip. Chips and dip do not require any cooking on your part, and will still be loved by the majority of your guests.

5) Depending on the theme of your party, you may or may not want to purchase decorations. Festive decorations can be found at any local party or general store. You may also consider purchasing decorations that can be stored and reused at a different time, such as reusable tablecloths and Tiki torches.

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6) The day before you party, you will want to make sure to thaw, prepare, and marinate the meat you will be cooking. Store the meat stored away, soaking up the marinate until it is time for it to go on the grill. Prepare any side dishes that you can ahead of time.

7) The day of the party, get up early and start preparing for it. You do not want your guest arriving while you are still cooking or hanging decorations. It should only take you a few hours at most to prepare the area in which you will be having the party, but the reactions from your guest will probably seem as if you have been planning this for weeks. Try to have the grill already going by time the guests get there as well, because the smell coming from the grill is sure to get everyone in the mood.



We hope you have enjoyed this special summer party planning report.

If you would like learn more about the secrets of successful party planning, we invite you to check out a copy of our latest ebook, **Hosting the Perfect Party**, available at:

www.HostingThePerfectParty.com