

Street Party Kit

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Introduction

Street parties are a wonderful way to have fun and bring neighbours together. Getting to know each other better through such events can lead to many good things.

Did you know? In Victoria, the City provides block party permits and delivers barricades for free.

How to get your permit from the City of Victoria

If you have not held a street party in prior years you need a majority of residents to sign in support of the street party. The City provides a neighbour sign off form:

[http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Department s/Parks~Rec~Culture/Recreation/Documents/block-party-sign-off.pdf](http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Department%2F%2FParks%26Rec%26Culture%2FRecreation%2FDocuments%2Fblock-party-sign-off.pdf)

In subsequent years you only need to put in the application form:

[http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Department s/Parks~Rec~Culture/Recreation/Documents/permits-block-party-application.pdf](http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Department%2F%2FParks%26Rec%26Culture%2FRecreation%2FDocuments%2Fpermits-block-party-application.pdf)

The City does charge for insurance, usually about \$25 for up to 80 people.

Some helpful materials

- ✓ Sidewalk chalk
- ✓ 'Caution' tape to extend the barricades leave barely enough space for a vehicle

- ✓ Market tent (can be borrowed for free from grocery chains)
- ✓ Tables and chairs



Chapman/Linden Street Party

Organizing tips

Tip #1: When you're getting your neighbours' sign off to have a street party, ask them about what they'd like to see at the event and what they are able to contribute.

For example:

- ✓ Kids activities (parades, bouncy castle, face painting, etc.)
- ✓ Art / crafts
- ✓ Performance (music, dance, etc.)
- ✓ Workshops (Cornwall Street had a wonderful laughter yoga workshop one year!)

- ✓ Presentations (ideas for greening the neighbourhood, etc.)
- ✓ Potluck / barbecue coordination
- ✓ Pancake breakfast or free lemonade stand or??
- ✓ Street hockey
- ✓ Other sports / games
- ✓ Other activities – the sky's the limit!

Tip #2: Get people involved.

For example, if someone suggests an activity ask if they are willing to coordinate it. Also, the sign-off sheets can be a handy reference for recruiting people in subsequent years.

Tip #3: Get people from off your street to contribute.

Musicians that neighbours know may be willing to come and play for free or for donations by 'passing the hat'. Music stores may be willing to loan equipment: for example, Larson Music donated the rental of a PA system, including microphones and a mixing board for the Chapman/Linden street party. Cornwall Street has had fun interactive activities, such as a fire truck (getting a blast from that hose is great fun on a hot day!) and a horse drawn carriage.

Tip #4: Collect donations from local businesses.

These can be used for the event, and/or as volunteer appreciation gifts.

Tip #5: Put out a reminder about 2 days before.

Provide a schedule of activities, and ask people to park their cars off the street for the day. This is also a good chance to ask for any last minute volunteers you need.

Tip #6: Make sure to organize a clean up crew.

At the ending time, the clean up crew makes sure the street is clear and places the barricades back where the City delivered them to. Leaving the street pristine will build support for future street parties.

Tip #7: Take pictures!

Documenting the fun with photos and/or videos is a great way to capture some of the memories. Also, the images can be used in flyers for future street parties and other community building activities.



This document was prepared by Moss Street Village volunteers. Moss Street Village is a neighbourhood-driven initiative, supported by the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association through its Streetlife Committee.