



2026

PARTY PLANNING PACKET

If you registered your party, someone from the:

- Police Department
- or
- Fire Department

looks forward to visiting your party! We make every effort to attend every registered party.

National Night Out - Tuesday, August 4

National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with the neighbors who live around you. We are glad you are joining the movement. This packet is intended to provide you with simple ideas and tools to help you and your neighbors have a wonderful experience together. Have a fun National Night Out!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Katie Zerull, Public Safety Engagement Manager

Bloomington Police Department

952-563-8808

kzerull@BloomingtonMN.gov



Food Drive

Encourage your neighbors to donate to the VEAP food shelf at NNO. Additional information is included on the flyer provided.

PARTY RESOURCES

- Reasons block parties are effective
- Successful party tips
- Information on caution tape to assist in defining your party area
- Handouts available include:
 - A sample invitation for your neighbors
 - Sign-in sheet for your guests
 - VEAP food drive flyer
 - 2026 Chalk Art Contest Info
 - Trivia sheet





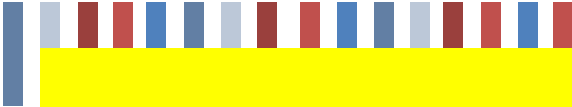
BLOCK PARTIES ARE EFFECTIVE BECAUSE...

1. **Safety:** You can increase the safety of your neighborhood by getting to know each other. You can exchange telephone numbers and keep an eye on each other's property and activity in your neighborhood. If you have not already done so, consider joining the Neighborhood Watch program as it is a great way to reduce crime in your neighborhood.
2. **Address Issues:** When you come together you can address key issues for your neighborhood. By working together, you can successfully take care of problems that are affecting your neighborhood.
3. **Sense of Ownership:** By getting together with your neighbors, you are creating a sense of belonging in your neighborhoods, which is an important aspect of building safe and positive communities.
4. **Foster Harmony:** By having a block party, you and your neighbors can help reduce conflict in your neighborhood. By providing an opportunity for communication, you are on the path to a resolution to the problem.
5. **Fun:** Having fun in your streets, yards or at local parks is a wonderful experience that adults and children will enjoy and hopefully create lasting memories. Playing games such as kickball or frisbee together can help break down barriers and build lasting friendships.

SUCCESSFUL PARTY TIPS:

- ⇒ Start planning and organizing sooner than later.
- ⇒ Promote your party by inviting your neighbors and ask them to invite others.
- ⇒ Put a flyer or invitation in your neighbor's door inviting them to get involved.
- ⇒ If you need help, ask for volunteers!
- ⇒ Post a yard sign announcing your gathering a few days before August 4 to remind your neighbors of the event. **The PD has provided signs in the past. A limited number remain. Ensure you are keeping them from year to year!**
- ⇒ Use nametags at the event to help everyone learn and remember names.
- ⇒ Have people introduce themselves with a fun fact.
- ⇒ Have a sign-in sheet to form/update your own block contact list. (Sign in form available)
- ⇒ Thank your neighbors for attending the event and encourage them to attend again next year.





CAUTION TAPE FOR YOUR PARTY



Important notes on caution tape:

- * You only need 1 roll of tape per party as there are 2 strips in each roll. We have to individually cut each strip of caution tape so only take one if you need it!
- * The caution tape is to assist you in communication and safety for your National Night Out event. It is intended to be used only on NNO and not on public streets other days of the year.
- * The safety tape **DOES NOT provide an official closure** of the street but only assist with communications for the event.
- * Please respect the fact that some neighbors, emergency response vehicles, or others may use the street; hence the street shouldn't be blocked and your care in placing tables, chairs, or objects at the edge of the street or on a driveway would be appreciated.
- * Please adhere the caution tape to a tree, chair, cooler... **with at least one moveable support**.
- * Tape should be back 30 feet from the edge of an intersected street.
- * Keeping in mind, the visiting police, fire and ambulance vehicles need access to your street and party area.
- * At conclusion of your party, you are free to dispose of the tape **or keep it to use again in future years**.
- * Should there be a reason to call on this matter, the Traffic Maintenance office number is 952-563-4585.



National Night Out
is a rain or shine
event. Regardless of
the weather
circumstances,
National Night Out will
still be held!

VEAP Food Drive

Again this year we are hosting a food drive as part of National Night Out. Your neighborhood contributions help individuals and families in the community remain strong and stable.

Drop off your collected donations and tell them it's part of the NNO food drive at:

VEAP

9600 Aldrich Ave S.

Bloomington, MN 55420

Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m.—noon





CHALK ART CONTEST!



Let's see what you and your neighbors can create on National Night Out!

Submit your neighborhood's artwork by **Monday, August 10** to **BLM.MN/photos**

FREE chalk is available in the police department lobby!

Prizes given to:

- *Best Overall*
- *Most Creative*
- *Most Representative of National Night Out*

Do you have great photos of your event?

If so, we would love to see your photos! Please upload your photos at **www.blm.mn/photos**

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to those who make National Night Out a success:

- * Block Captains and Co-Captains
- * Bloomington Crime Prevention Association
- * Bloomington Fire Department
- * Mall of America
- * Outback Steak House

