



CHAPLAINS & HEROES

Hosting a National Night Out: A Guide for Churches and Law Enforcement

Chaplains National Night Out is a fantastic way to build stronger community bonds and support our local law enforcement. Whether you're hosting your first event or looking for fresh ideas, this guide will help you plan a memorable evening.

Here are 10 Creative Activities to Engage Your Community:

1. Photo Booth Contest

- **What You Need:** Props like local sports team mascots, beard/mustache cutouts, hats, glasses, and speech bubbles with hashtags or social media requests.
- **Setup:** Print and cut out props, attach them to sticks, and set up a backdrop with a shower curtain or streamers. Encourage participants to take fun photos. If a certain number of photos are taken, officers will share a silly photo on social media.

2. Neighborhood Update

- **What to Do:** Gather everyone for a community update. Have a representative from the police department discuss achievements, crime statistics, and goals. Introduce community programs like Dog Walker Watch or Nextdoor.

3. Water Balloon Toss

- **Setup:** Fill water balloons and divide participants into pairs. Players toss the balloon back and forth, taking a step back each time. The last pair with an unbroken balloon wins. Make sure to set rules to ensure safety and fun!

4. Face Painting

- **What You Need:** Basic face painting supplies and a reference board with simple designs (flowers, smiley faces, etc.). Recruit volunteers from the department or community for this creative activity.

5. Ladder Golf Tournament

- **What to Do:** Organize a tournament with backyard games like Ladder Golf, KanJam, or Cornhole. Create a bracket and let the games begin!



o. Chalk Gallery

- o **What You Need:** Sidewalk chalk and space for drawing. Encourage attendees to create artwork on the pavement. Add fun games like tic-tac-toe or hopscotch to the mix!

7. Scavenger Hunt

- o **What to Do:** Prepare a list of items for participants to find and place them in brown paper bags. The first person or team to return with all items wins. Customize the list based on local availability.

8. Tug of War

- o **What You Need:** A tug of war rope (borrow from a local school or gym). Organize matches by age group or family teams for a fun, competitive activity.

9. Food Bank Collection

- o **What to Do:** Collect non-perishable food items for a local food bank. Set a collection goal and encourage attendees to contribute. Provide a donation box and consider including cash donation options.

10. K9 Demonstration

- o **What to Do:** Invite your local K9 unit to showcase their skills. This engaging demonstration will educate and entertain attendees while highlighting the important work of the K9 officers.

Essentials for Your Event:

- **Refreshments:** Offer snacks and drinks like watermelon, lemonade, hot dogs, and chips. Encourage attendees to bring food to share.
- **Promotion:** Use social media, door hangers, and local news to spread the word. Highlight the fun activities and community impact to attract attendees.

Additional Resources:

- **National Night Out Registration:** Make sure to register your event with the National Night Out organization [here](#).
- **Branded Merchandise:** Check out [this link](#) for National Night Out branded merchandise to enhance your event.

Let's come together to support our law enforcement officers and make National Night Out a night to remember!

#NationalNightOut

#CommunityEngagement

#SupportOurHeroes

#ChaplainsAndHeroes