

Start a Cookbook Club

WHAT EVEN IS A COOKBOOK CLUB?

A cookbook club is a monthly potluck where everyone cooks a recipe from the same cookbook.

Here are a couple of articles about cookbook clubs for more info:

- [Today's the Day to Start a Cookbook Club — Here's How](#)
 - [Cookbook Club 101: What It Is and How to Start Your Own](#)
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STARTING A COOKBOOK CLUB

Step one to starting a cookbook club is letting others know your intention. Post the copy below to social media and let the cooking commence!

“Friends—I'm starting a cookbook club! It's just like a book club, but with food.

We pick one cookbook for each meeting, everyone cooks a recipe from that cookbook, then we all gather to nibble and enjoy each other's friendly company. It's basically a regular potluck where all of the dishes come from one cookbook.

You don't have to be an experienced cook to join the club—just be enthusiastic about giving it a try, meeting new people, and pushing the limits of your comfort zone in the world of food.

If you are interested and/or you know someone else who might be please get in touch! It doesn't matter if we haven't spoken in a while or if we don't actually know each

other that well. Cooking is one of my passions, and I can't think of a better way to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones than over a good meal 😊”

COOKBOOK CLUB PRO TIPS

Enjoy these tips for keeping your new cookbook club running smoothly.

Startup, Logistics, & Planning

1. **Pick a set day and time for consistency.** Speaking from experience, the first Sunday of the month at 5pm works great for “Sunday dinner” vibes!
2. **Rotate hosts every month so no one is overburdened.** Encourage members to not just show up, but host! Have the host email members a month ahead of time to share the cookbook choice and their address. In our club, the host also picks the cookbook.
3. **Make a Google Sheet where folks can see this month’s info and sign up to attend.** The main tab on my sheet lets people know where/when the next meeting is taking place, shows a link to the cookbook, and has a space for people to sign up to attend. Other potentially helpful tabs:
 - a. Hosting Signup - One column with the year’s meeting dates, another with room for people to sign up to host.
 - b. Past Cookbooks - Track your history!
 - c. Cookbook Suggestions - For folks to drop in their ideas.
 - d. Members - Names and email addresses; encourage people to add their friends!
 - e. About Cookbook Clubs - Maybe include a link to this doc 😊

Choosing Cookbooks and Recipes

1. **To keep things affordable, choose cookbooks that are available at your local public library.** This way, folks can participate no matter their financial situation.

Check that at least a few copies are available at your library *before* telling people it's the cookbook of the month!

2. **Get out of your comfort zone!** Challenging yourself by choosing books and recipes that feature new-to-you cuisines and techniques is the most fun part of cookbook club.

Just good advice

1. **Find balance and exercise patience.** As a founder, you'll have to be the core hype person for a while in order to keep things moving and make sure initial excitement doesn't fizzle. Over time, you and members will settle into a routine and it won't be so much work for you—I promise!
2. **Put away your phones.** At meetings, just focus on connecting with people through food. If you feel the urge to document, take a few pictures each meeting and share a Google Photos album with members so you can reminisce in nostalgia whenever you like. Just don't let getting the perfect photo for Instagram get in the way of real connection.