

How to Organize a Block Party

Block Party Permit (city of GR Residents)

All the info you need can be found here:

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Host-a-Community-Block-Party>

Permit costs \$20; the city will deliver barricades the day before or the morning of your party so you can block off the street. Street needs to be back open by sunset.

*You will need to provide written proof that you obtained approval to close the street from at least 51% of the houses on the street.

Block Party Trailer

The Great Lakes Classis of the RCA provides an incredible resource. Their Block Party Trailer comes with a bounce house, grill, sound system, and some yard games (corn hole, soccer net, etc.)

Cost: \$200 deposit, \$100 is refunded when trailer is returned in good condition with nothing missing.

Contact: Alison DeBoer

616-698-7071 ext. 1841

adeboer@rcagl.org

Fire Trucks and Police Vehicles

Contact your local fire department and police department if you want a fire truck or a police vehicle. They'll put you on their schedule and as long as no emergency comes up, they'll be there for 30 minutes so the kids (and adults) can climb around the trucks.

Food/Tables/Chairs

You could simply host a potluck. Or, you could pool resources and buy burgers/hot dogs to grill and everyone brings a side or dessert. Many neighbors have tables and chairs that can be used. If you can't find any, you can borrow some from The Branch.

Games

Water balloons, scavenger hunt, musical chairs, bubbles and sidewalk chalk are all fun for the kids in addition to the bounce house. But don't forget the adults! Cheesy get-to-know-you games are a great idea to help people start talking to people they don't know. Maybe some local businesses would be willing to donate a gift card or simple gift as prizes for the games!

Pinterest is a great resource for games and ideas. But if this is your first block party, keep it simple! Put out bubbles, sidewalk chalk, rent the trailer and use what's in there. Don't overplan! You want to be able to get to know your neighbors too instead of running games the whole afternoon.