

Old-fashioned Picnic

Picture this: A nice sunny day filled with blue skies, a light breeze blowing through the air, hamburgers sizzling on the grill, a cooler filled with sodas and lemonade . . . all this complemented by pleasant temperatures with people have a relaxed afternoon enjoying the great outdoors. Well, if you haven't guessed it yet, this is the great traditional past time of an old-fashioned picnic . . . an event everyone can enjoy.

Planning is easy. First secure a convenient location. It might be at your chapter house, or even better yet, a public park with grills and picnic tables already provided. Reservations through the city's park service are always recommended and the fees are usually reasonable if there is any fee at all. Next plan the food. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken breasts can all be obtained in large quantities at wholesale clubs at great prices. Don't forget the chips, beans, coleslaw, and lemonade.

Now plan the activities. The possibilities are endless . . . flag football, softball, volleyball, horseshoe, frisbee, hackey-sac, and tetherball to name just a few. How about the water activities such as a water gun fight?

Now the only thing left to plan is the good weather! Have fun and enjoy a relaxing day in the great outdoors.

Sticky Velcro

The concept is simple. Each participant receives four different colored bands of velcro (two that stick and two that receive). Each participant must then place the bands on his/her body, one on each wrist and one on each ankle.

The event organizer will have already selected a member to act as the master of ceremonies. This person will be in charge of the activity. She or he will have a Twister- like spin- board prepared that have the colors of the velcro represented. As the spins are spun, each person is to find an ankle or wrist with the corresponding color. Connections are made via all sorts of combinations . . . ankles to ankles, ankles to wrists, wrists to wrists, whatever the participants can accomplish! Do this activity all throughout the duration of the event.

Most groups have done this in shifts or teams. The team concept can be accomplished by giving a certain number of people a certain color. You may assign teams and have them compete to see who can play longer without falling, missing a connection or slipping out of play. Be creative with this and make up your own rules for play.

Stick with the sticky theme and serve foods that are gooey, messy and stretchy: taffy, caramel-corn, a sundae bar with fudge and marshmallow toppings, and fudge brownies.

Polaroid Party

Its picture time! You know how everyone loves party pics. Well how about giving them what

they want, only faster and with more fun. Here's how:

Borrow a couple of Polaroid cameras and stock up on film. Appoint a few photographers to take snapshots of all the guests. How about designing a few backdrops for your guests to have their picture taken against? ... A beach scene with a palm tree . . . A famous landmark . . . Or any other distinguishable look. How about making or borrowing some of those life-size cardboard pictures of famous people for your guests to stand next to and have their picture taken? You could even remove the heads so your guest could impose their face onto someone else's body. How about having your picture taken with the president of the United States? Start placing the developed pictures around your party for people to see. But don't let them take them down until the party is over. You might even want to choose one location, such as a wall, then you can monitor.

Another fun touch would be to borrow a few video cameras and TVs. People like to see what they look like on TV. All you would need to do would be to place a few different cameras in high locations pointing toward your guest. Videos people dancing are great. Have your cameras hooked up to TVs throughout your event.

Some great music and good food will be sure to guarantee a fun time.

Mob-Barley Party

Let's have a party, reggae style! This popular theme has been around for years . . . and is always being improved upon.

Planning a cookout will be a great start to complement this evening . . . can't you smell the hamburgers on the grill? How about cutting up some pineapples and grilling those also? Grilled pineapple tastes great!

Now you need to plan some activities. What is a reggae party without a limbo contest? All you need is a long stick, such as a broom handle, and you're set. Be sure to give away prizes to the winners. Now plan some tie-dyeing. Since you'll want everyone to wear their most outlandish tie-dyed outfits to the party, consider inviting everyone over earlier in the day to tie-dye their outfits. Provide a couple of those large plastic kiddie pools and dyes to get everyone started. This will help the buildup to the party later in the evening.

Now all you have to do is set the mood with the right reggae music and decorations, such as palm trees and large tie-dyed sheets. Be creative!