

## FRIENDSGIVING (NEIGHBORHOOD)

For many people, Thanksgiving is all about celebrating with close or extended family. But there are a number of people who can't make it home for the holidays or don't have a family to celebrate with. For these people, you may want to consider hosting a "Friendsgiving." Planning a "Friendsgiving" is easy, and you don't need to spend a lot of money. Make it a potluck and ask guests to each bring a dish that reminds them of home. Guests will enjoy participating in the meal preparation and sampling other people's home cooking. To keep the party going, consider playing a game after dinner. Then finish off the night by saying goodbye with a gift of gratitude. Give each of your guests a gratitude jar. You can buy these online or make your own. Gratitude jars are a fun way to show gratitude year-round by simply writing a statement on a piece of paper and placing it inside the jar at the end of each day. This special gift will serve as a reminder of your "Friendsgiving" event and the relationship they have with you.

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### WHO TO INVITE

Invite people who don't have a group to celebrate with. Consider friends and neighbors who could use some extra support during the holidays. Your invitation will mean more to them than you can ever imagine.

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### TIMING

Schedule "Friendsgiving" on Thanksgiving or any time during the month of November.

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### VENUE

Host "Friendsgiving" at your house. You'll want to create a "homey" vibe and what better way to do this than to invite guests into your dining room.

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### AGENDA

It's always good to have a plan for your event. Here's a suggestion for the order of events on "Friendsgiving."

1. Mix and Mingle
2. Welcome Toast
3. Dinner/Icebreaker
4. Dessert
5. Game
6. Thank You for Coming

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### WHAT YOU NEED

#### Supplies

- ☐ Table(s)
- ☐ Table linen(s)
- ☐ Chairs
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Napkin rings
- ☐ Place settings (plates, silverware, glasses)
- ☐ Place cards
- ☐ Fresh flowers (for centerpiece)
- ☐ Candles
- ☐ Thanksgiving table accents and decorations (gourds, pinecones, leaves, etc.)
- ☐ Serving platters

Also be sure to check out our [Party Planning Checklist](#) to make sure you have all your bases covered.

# Awkward Agent®

- ☐ Serving utensils
- ☐ Appetizer plates
- ☐ Cocktail napkins
- ☐ To go food containers (for leftovers)
- ☐ Beverage cooler(s)
- ☐ Bags of ice
- ☐ Bottle opener
- ☐ Corkscrew
- ☐ Game (for after dinner)
- ☐ Sound system/speaker
- ☐ Phone or camera to take photos
- ☐ Gratitude jars
- ☐ Pens

## Food & Drink

This meal is a group effort. As the host, we recommend you provide the main dish, a couple of appetizers, and some drinks. Your guests will provide the side dishes and dessert. Your shopping list is likely to include:

- ☐ Main dish (turkey, ham, roast, etc.)
- ☐ Appetizers (we recommend you make 2 of your favorites)
- ☐ Red wine
- ☐ White wine
- ☐ Champagne
- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Seltzers
- ☐ Coffee (with cream and sugar)

If your budget is limited, it's perfectly acceptable to ask your guests to bring drinks as well.

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## GOOD VIBES ONLY

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### Icebreaker

While you're enjoying your meal, go around the table and ask your guests to share the following:

- ☐ What dish did they prepare?
- ☐ Why did they pick their dish? Is it a tradition?
- ☐ What are they most grateful for?

### Music

Playing light music in the background adds ambiance to any party. During dinner, play classical or smooth jazz. After dinner, pick up the energy with a mix of songs your friends will enjoy.

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## HELPFUL TIPS

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### Get the Word Out

Share the news about your event by reaching out in the following ways:

- ☐ Personal phone calls
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Text messages

### Collateral

This is an intimate event that requires a heartfelt invitation. We do not want your guests to feel that they are being invited as a means to build your business. With that said, we suggest you not promote your personal brand at this event.

Also be sure to check out our [Party Planning Checklist](#) to make sure you have all your bases covered.

