

NEIGHBOURHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Gathering Together/Events

FOCUS	☐ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☒ External volunteers ☒ Youth ☒ Music sections ☐ Women's ministries ☐ Seniors' ministries ☐ Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	☐ Seniors ☒ Youth ☐ People with disabilities ☐ Caregivers ☒ New Canadians ☐ Social mission ☒ Other/community members

Event description:

The Neighbourhood Block Party is a welcoming, family-friendly event designed to bring local residents together to foster connection, celebrate diversity and build a sense of community pride. Through games, music, food and intentional conversation, this event creates opportunities for neighbours to meet one another and learn about the resources and programs offered by the corps. It is a joyful, low-barrier outreach that highlights the corps' role in supporting community well-being.

What are the intended event outcomes?

Goals include:

- **Strengthened community connections:** Neighbours will engage in meaningful conversations, shared activities and fellowship-helping to break down isolation and build local relationships.
- **Increased awareness of the corps:** Attendees will learn more about The Salvation Army's programs, values and community presence.
- **Enhanced sense of belonging:** Families, newcomers and individuals will feel welcomed and included in a safe, supportive environment.
- **Platform for future engagement:** The event serves as a bridge to future outreach opportunities, volunteerism and corps involvement.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

Attendance count:

- Use a simple sign-in sheet or headcount at the welcome table to track the number of participants and family groups.



Comment wall or feedback table:

- Set up a “Community Wall” where attendees can leave a sticky note or card with thoughts like: “What did you enjoy most?” or “What would you like to see next time?”
- This is low-barrier, visual and often sparks fun interaction and helpful insight.

What procedures are required to set up this event?

Secure approval and date:

- Confirm the event date with corps leadership and add to the church calendar.
- Ensure the event aligns with other local happenings and seasonal weather.

Venue and obtain permissions:

- Book the corps parking lot, local park or request permission for a street closure through your municipality, if required.
- Have a backup indoor location in case of poor weather.

Form a planning team and assign roles:

- Identify an event co-ordinator and volunteer leads for hospitality, food, activities and safety.
- Set planning meetings in the weeks leading up to the event.

Connect with community partners (if applicable):

- Invite schools, local businesses or organizations to participate or promote the event.
- Explore partnerships for donated food, entertainment or giveaways.

Create event materials:

- Design flyers, social media posts and signage.
- Prepare name tags, event schedules and any printed materials for attendees.

Organize supplies and equipment:

- Arrange for tables, chairs, garbage bins, décor and sound equipment.
- Confirm who is bringing potluck items or food contributions (if applicable).

Promote the event:

- Distribute flyers, post online and make church announcements.
- Encourage word-of-mouth invitations among neighbours and local families.

Confirm volunteer coverage:

- Ensure all volunteer roles are filled and clearly understood.
- Host a brief pre-event orientation to review responsibilities and safety procedures.

Prepare the site:

- Arrive early on the event day for set-up and decorating.
- Set up zones for welcome, food, activities and seating.

What procedure is required to operate this event?

- Guidebook provides you with details on supplies needed and how to host/run each of the suggested free play stations.
- Guidebook provides suggested simple worship time and devotional thought.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this event?

Costs will need to be evaluated locally based on the available supplies that are needed for the free play stations.

- Is there a cost to rent a park in your community?
- Will you be printing matching t-shirts for your volunteers so they are easily identifiable?
- Do you want to purchase beverage containers or reusable bags with the logo on it for families to keep after?
- You may also wish to purchase drinks and simple healthy snacks to have on hand.

What physical resources will I require?

Resources are based on free play activities that are chosen. You may also wish to bring along signs identifying your ministry unit, extra outdoor chairs and blankets to share with families who have not brought their own.

Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this event?

Volunteers engaging with youth or vulnerable individuals should be screened and trained according to Salvation Army policy.

For more information:

For additional details, support, or guidance related to this event, please contact the Community Mission Department at THQ. We are here to assist with implementation, answer your questions, and help you make the most of your Community Care Ministries efforts.