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Simple and Easy Tips − How to Throw a Tailgate Party No One Will Forget

By Nicola Kennedy

There can be no more exciting urban outdoor activity than throwing a tailgate party. Aside from the

fact that tailgate parties are casual and a lot of fun, they are relatively easy to setup. You can also add a bit of pizzazz to your parties so that your friends and families won't ever forget them. Here are some tips on how to throw a party that will dazzle your guests.

You can consider making your own invitations into a unique way. For example if you will be having a football party, you can pattern your invitation by cutting out a football shape, from a piece of brown vinyl or cardstock glued to a lighter colored paper or cardstock. Use white shoelaces or vinyl laces to create the football laces.

For great decorations, choose the materials that will match the interests for that someone special you created a party for. It could be a favorite football team, or a baseball team. Or it could be the things they love the most.

Create games that would be in accordance with the theme. If your theme for the party is about football, there are so many games and activities suited to this theme. And remember, the better prepared you are, the smoother things will move along.

The Football Toss: Each child takes a turn throwing a football through a hoop or tire or into a basket.

Football Relay Course: For younger children, do simple exercises with them, jumping jacks, running, throwing a ball...For older children, design an obstacle course that includes football practice moves, more difficult callisthenics, sprints, punting...

You can try your skills at a football shaped cake, if you are a little bit artistic and a good baker. If this seems a little complicated, make a simple rectangular cake and decorate it like a football field.

On the other hand, your theme for the party is all about cheer leading, you could try these fantastic activities and games:

The Human Pyramid: Make sure to do this either on grass or a soft mat. Help the girls create a pyramid and capture the moment with lots of pictures. Let them take turns in different positions.

Cheers: Get the girls lined up and teach them some simple cheers. You might even enlist the help of a high school cheerleader willing to come and teach some.

The parking lots of stadiums, traditionally, is where tailgate parties have been held. You can also setup a party in an area set aside specifically for tailgating. Some parties have been held in other parking lots with permission of course, or even closer to home − usually in the driveway.

One of the most important things to consider is food safety. Do not leave unpreserved food out for more than two hours, they may get spoiled. And because a lot of places might not have soap and water, be sure to bring anti− bacterial wipes and clean everything thoroughly before you go home. Be sure that you have lots of ice for your drinks to keep them cold and have lots of paper bags for your

leftovers.

The very common dishes at parties are grilled and smoked dishes, but perhaps the most popular dish is Chili. It is easy to make.

A few other things to remember are disposable plates and utensils, napkins, condiments, salt and pepper, bottle and can openers, chairs or stools, paper towels, folding tables, and blankets.

Make sure you are allowed where you are going before throwing a party. Know what the restrictions there might be and what facilities are available. Be prepared to bring everything you might need because supplies will probably be limited.

Following these simple tips will ensure you have a great party.

Nicola Kennedy has been organizing tailgate parties and picnics for nearly 12 years. Her site TailgaterEssentials.info offers news, information and more great

tailgating tips

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Tailgate Parties

By George Meszaros

It's hard to picture a football game, baseball game or any sporting event without a tailgate party in the parking lot. Tailgate parties can be great for any occasion, and it doesn't have to be reserved for sports events. Amusement parks, beaches, county fairs are just a few examples of possible events for great tailgate parties. Any event that doesn't normally provide great food is excellent for tailgate parties.

Although tailgate parties are normally fairly short and infrequent, tailgate parties are easy to plan and organize. Potlucks are the preferred choice for tailgaters. You can ask people to bring their favorite dishes. Make sure everyone understand the type of food they are responsible for, so you don't end up with a 6 servings of desserts. Not that some of the guests would have anything against a dessert only party.

It is true that tailgate parties are informal events; it doesn't mean you have to compromise on the quality of the food you serve. Because you don't have to worry about spending money on decoration and such, you can afford to spend a bit more money on the food. The larger budget allocated for food allows for better quality food and drinks. These better quality products will turn your tailgate party into a memorable event.

Separate raw meat and poultry from cooked foods to avoid cross−contamination. Keep in mind that raw meat and poultry need to be cooked thoroughly. Store leftovers in a cooler within 2 hours of taking food off of the grill. When the temperature is above 90 °F outside, store food in a cooler within 1 hour.

Tailgate parties require no or minimal preparation. Decoration is going to get as fancy as the cars are on the lot. To make your party more relaxing, try to park your car in an area with the least amount of traffic on the lot. The less traffic in the area the less exhaust fumes you have to breathe in. Also, less traffic means less noise and you'll be able to hear each other better and relax more.

For some people tailgate parties are too close to oil spots and exhaust fumes, so if you are one of them, tailgate parties may not be the best fit for you.

Interesting facts: The majority of tailgaters are men, and 60 percent are between the ages of 25 and 44. Almost half of all tailgaters tailgate 6−10 times per season.

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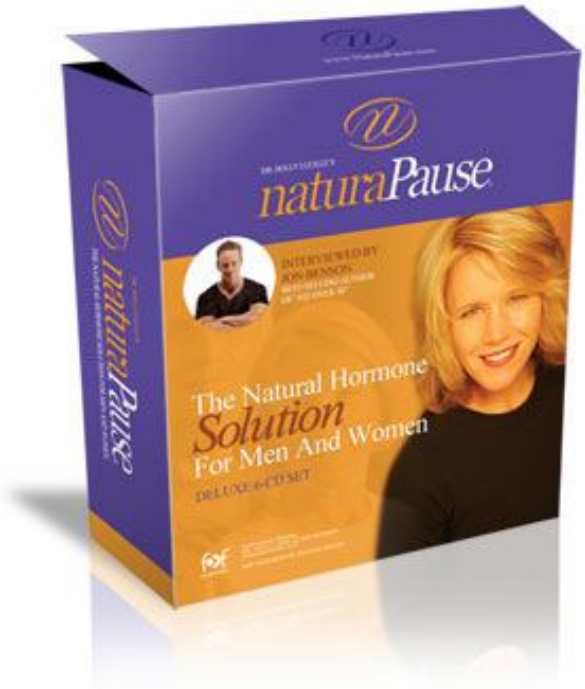
http://www.partyfantastic.com



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