

Tips for Hosting a Winning Tailgate Party

- PLAN, Plan, and plan! Plan for more than you have invited as drop-ins come with the occasion.
- Keep your menu simple. Prepare ahead as much as possible. Soup and chili may be a consideration. Remember the national survey—burgers and hotdogs are all-time favorites. Make them special with a variety of toppings. Soup and chili are welcome cool weather treats. Don't forget to include all necessary pots, pans, and tools for on-site needs.
- Remember to include items for vegetarians, diabetics, and children.
- Make visiting comfortable while remembering a tent is a small space for folding stools, chairs, tables, cooking equipment, and food/ice containers.
- Tuck in a throw or two and plastic rain gear along with fans and sunscreen. Fall weather can be tricky.
- Keep the word “disposable” always in mind: plates, bowls, serving pieces, cups, utensils—plenty of big trash bags.
- Strive for safety yet a first-aid kit, scissors and tissue might be smart.
- Bring small size, easy to open containers. Foil and plastic wrap.
- Decorate in school colors. Use snacks as part of the display.
- Plan a variety of beverages: tea, coffee, soda, alcohol—and plenty of water and ice. Several ice stations may be easier than a large bin.
- Have a few games for the young ones. Food will only keep them entertained for a short while.

What did we forget? Be sure to add it to your final list. Enjoy!!!