

PLANNING YOUR PARTY

Being smart with themes

When planning an event, the organization and members should consider two areas when developing a theme:

PREVENTION: Prevention is the action of stopping something from happening or arising. While a party, mixer or Halloween event is intended to be fun; careful thought needs to be put into the theme and expectations of members and guests in the planning phase.

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION: Cultural appropriation is the adoption of certain elements from another culture without the consent of people who belong to that culture.

When leaders take the time to think through event planning in compliance with the risk management policy of the organization and determine a theme that is culturally appropriate, you are on the path to a great event!

So, please stop, plan and think!



Event themes should NOT be disrespectful or degrading to any person or population. When selecting a theme, make sure it:

- ◆ Does NOT rely on the stereotypes of certain groups.
- ◆ Does NOT encourage offensive dress or costumes.
- ◆ Does NOT stereotype men or women.
- ◆ Is NOT sexist. If you're unsure, try interchanging the word/theme with a racial word/theme.
- ◆ Is NOT centered on making fun of a particular group of people, culture, or organization.
- ◆ Does NOT lend itself to members, new members, or guests taking the theme to a place that is disrespectful or degrading.

To help plan your events, check out our Event Planning Guide [here](#), or download the HM Event Planner App on your mobile device!

ALL FUN, NO FOUL: CREATIVE YET INOFFENSIVE PARTY THEMES

While any theme can go wrong, below are some of the better themes that can assist your organization in the brainstorming and prevention planning process.

- Heroes and Villains
 - Disco Party
 - Decade themes
 - Mardi Gras
 - Toga! Toga!
 - Famous Couples
 - Winter Wonderland (snow party)
 - Safari
 - Rodeo
 - Movie themes
 - Mad Men or other television show themes
 - Viva Las Vegas
 - Castaway/Shipwrecked
 - Sporting event themes
 - Pirates of the Caribbean
 - Party like a Rock Star (celebrity themes)
 - Once Upon a Time (fairy tale themes)
 - Casino Night
 - April Fool's Day Party
 - Fire and Ice
 - Superheroes
 - My Tie (mystery match-up themes)
 - Outer Space/Aliens
 - Movie Premiere (Red Carpet)
 - New Year's Eve Again
 - Under the Sea (ocean theme)
 - Grayscale or Specific Color
 - Video or Board Game
 - Music Figure (Beethoven, Michael Jackson)
 - Around the World (dress like a place you want to travel to)
 - Olympics
 - Rumble in the Jungle (favorite animal)
 - March Madness (favorite basketball team)
 - Down in the Denim/Jexchange/Jarty Party
 - Country Club (golf and tennis)
 - Duck Calls and Overalls
 - When I Grow Up
 - Cool in Middle School
 - Rhyme or Reason (things that rhyme or go together)
 - Derby Days
 - Glow What you Know (glowsticks)
 - Blacklight (wear white)
 - Ugly Sweater
 - Speakeasy with Gatsby
 - Alice in Wonderland
 - Spy Next Door
 - Hometown Throwdown (something from your hometown)
 - Mathletes and Athletes
 - High School Stereotypes
 - Name Game (wear something that starts with the same letter as your name)
 - Four Seasons
 - Carnival Fun
 - Circus Soiree
 - Prom Party
 - Board Game Bash
 - Talent Show
 - Literary Character
 - John Hughes movie character
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