



City of Spring Lake Park

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

How would you like to improve the safety of your neighborhood, have a fun time with your neighbors, build community and take part in a huge, nationwide program?

You can do it all at this year's Night to Unite (NTU) celebration on August 7th . This is the night to get together with your neighbors

What is *building community*?

This is a simple but powerful method for people to improve their own and others' living conditions. At its most basic, this is neighbors working together to create positive changes—whether it is to reduce crime, looking out for each other's property, or getting involved.

Here are seven steps to make planning a Night to Unite celebration easy.

Step 1: Decide to get involved!

This is important: neighbors who know each other and agree to watch out for suspicious behavior are a great defense against crime.

- If you do not have a crime watch group, NTU is a good reason to get people together for the first time and start building relationships.
- You can make your NTU event as simple or as elaborate as you like –

anything from light refreshments on a neighbor's lawn to a street party with food, music, games, and prizes. You can take part in this nationwide event in your own way.

- You will be part of the biggest crime prevention event in Minnesota.

Step 2: Register your event

It is easy! Sign up using this link.
<http://www.slpmn.org/>

Step 3: Plan your event

Design an event that fits your neighborhood.

Your block is unique and your event can reflect that. Participate with any kind of event that suits you and your neighbors.

Have a planning meeting. Even the simplest event requires some planning. It is a great way to connect with your neighbors and recruit some volunteers to help you.

How will you involve children? Kids bring great energy and enthusiasm to NTU events. Get all ages busy with your NTU planning this year. Involving children and teens can also have a great long-term benefit for your block. Recent research shows that crime rates are lowest where young people and adults share a close bond.

Where will you hold your event?

- Lawn or park
- Vacant lot
- Parking lot
- Street

Decide on the details:

- Do you want to have refreshments?
- Do you want to have entertainment? What kind and who will provide it?
- Do you want to feature any special group activities?



Will you ask nearby businesses for donations?

If so, check out the Donation Tips we provide on the website.

Divide up responsibilities among neighbors.

NTU usually works best when many people share the work!

Step 4: Make sure you have the materials

All our materials are on our website at <http://www.slpmn.org/>

- Invitations for your guests
- Planning ideas

Step 5: Invite your neighbors

- Make a NTU sign and put it in your yard.
- Fill out the NTU invitation flyer with the specifics about your party and make copies.
- Invite your neighbors at least two weeks in advance. Tell everyone about the upcoming event.

Step 6: Have fun at Night to Unite!

- Make sure you provide **Name Tags!**
- Consider taking some pictures and starting a NTU photo book for the block.
- Gather contact information of your neighbors so you can continue to connect and plan for future NTU events!
- Enjoy the event.

Step 7: Document your event

After registering for NTU, you will receive an EVENT SUMMARY FORM.

