National Night Out 2026
Sample Program Ideas

Introductions

- As guests arrive, play a fun icebreaker game.
- Have everyone wear a name tag with their house #, that way it's not embarrassing if you've forgotten someone's name
- With guests sitting in a circle, go around giving brief introductions, including name, how long in neighborhood, children, profession, etc.

Explain the Purpose of National Night Out

- Check out the official National Night Out website at **natw.org**
- National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch as a way for neighbors to get to know each other. Studies show that when neighbors know each other, communities are safer and crime decreases. Over 30 million people participate in National Night Out worldwide.
- Your event will receive a visit from city of Albany police officers, firefighters and/or city employees.

Discuss Neighborhood Issues

- What issues/concerns do people have? Keep this list as short as possible. Perhaps make a list with discussion and follow-up at a later date. Don't get bogged down—remember this should be a ***fun*** event!

Create a Neighborhood Map

- Collect names, addresses, and phone numbers to develop a neighborhood roster (include pets, email addresses, work numbers, etc)
- Plan who will make a final copy and distribute.
- Decide who will meet with the neighbors that were unable to attend your National Night Out party to add their information to your neighborhood roster.

Select a location for next year's National Night Out

Refreshments / Potluck / BBQ / Ice Cream

Visit and get to know each other!

Consider creating "group garage poetry" by putting letter magnets or words on your magnetic garage door. Award prizes for most creative, shortest, poem by youngest child, etc.