



ECSU Student Center and Student Activities Office *Co-curricular education for student organizational leadership*

## ← CREATIVE SOCIAL PROGRAMMING →

Developing a social calendar that does not involve alcohol is not an easy task when alcohol seems to be everywhere. Given creativity and a willingness to be yourself, non-alcoholic social events can not only be fun, but memorable too! Following are several ideas for you to explore or use to brainstorm more ideas.

- ◆ **Crush Party** - have each member invite one or two "crushes" to a party anonymously.
- ◆ **Family Dinners** - each month or so, have the members sit together for dinner (if your organization is too large for this, break down into different groups each month)
- ◆ **Graffiti Party** - line the walls with newsprint, distribute markers, and have at it!
- ◆ **Aerobics Party** - have an instructor (or feature a talented member) for an aerobics session with another organization. Have a frozen yogurt bar afterward.
- ◆ **BYOB Banana Split Party** - invite members over for a "bring your own banana" banana split party.
- ◆ **My Tie Social** - have a "tacky tie" contest and serve non-alcoholic mai tais.
- ◆ **Dash for a Date** - announce a surprise "date dinner" for the organization. Give each member 30 minutes to get a date or a friend for a cookout.
- ◆ **Picture Party** - tell everyone to bring cameras. Set up funny backdrops with different themes. Get someone to use the video camera. Play back the film as part of the entertainment.
- ◆ **Mocktails Contest** - draw names with members of your group. Have each pair make a mocktail. After a tasting party, award a prize to the winner.
- ◆ **Hannah's Birthday** - have a party in honor of Hannah's birthday. Have everyone bring shower-type gifts for the kitchen or main room.
- ◆ **Jazzfest** - have a jazz band play and decorate in New Orleans style. Serve cajun food.
- ◆ **Casino Night** - set up game tables for a night of "gambling" fun!
- ◆ **Gilligan's Island** - decorate in an island theme, have everyone dress like their favorite character from the television show, and show old episodes of "Gilligan's Island" on the VCR.
- ◆ **Graduation Reception for Seniors** - have a reception following graduation for the seniors. Invite parents and friends.
- ◆ **New Year's in November** - celebrate New Year's Eve in November. Have an official countdown, blow

- ◆ horns, drop the apple, etc.  
**Christmas in March** - have a full-blown Christmas party in March, complete with gift exchange and tree.
- ◆ **Comic Strip Party** - at a mixer, have each male wear a comic strip pinned to his shirt. Give the women the captions and instruct everyone to find his/her match. Good way to meet people!
- ◆ **Scrabble Party** - have the women carry cardboard vowels and the men carry cardboard consonants. Meet people by making word combinations!
- ◆ **Nurf Olympics** - use all of the Nurf products to have a Nurf Olympics. Afterward, hold an awards ceremony complete with medals.
- ◆ **Win, Lose or Draw** - have someone act as a host or hostess for this take-off of the game show. Use phrases from the organization involved.
- ◆ **Elvis Party** - instruct everyone to come dressed as someone who has seen Elvis. Videotape the stories and play them back as part of the entertainment.
- ◆ **Mock Wedding** - draw names for parts in the wedding party. Make sure to include family members (great aunts, etc.). Have a reception with wedding cake, photographer, etc.
- ◆ **Bar-B-Cupid** - have a cookout for Valentine's Day.
- ◆ **Murder Mystery** - follow instructions from the board game. Good way to get people to meet each other!
- ◆ **Dating Game** - at a mixer, have someone act as a host or hostess for this take-off of the game show.
- ◆ **Mystic Party** - arrange to have a handwriting analyst, a palm reader, a magician, and a horoscope expert at your party!

Hopefully, this list has given you a jump start into a fun evening with your friends. Remember, it's not alcohol that makes a party; it's people!

## REFERENCE

Adapted from: St. Norbert College, Department of Leadership, Service & Involvement

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*Additional resource handouts are available as well as consultation services.  
For more information, contact the Student Activities Office in the Student Center at 465-4450.*