

# LIFE OF THE PARTY - TIPS

## 10 TIPS FOR THROWING A GREAT PARTY

What every great party should have is one definite goal—that is, **FUN**. And we've got some tips to help you and your guests accomplish just that:

### 1. Pick a theme

Spark any gathering by throwing a theme party. It can be as simple as an English tea luncheon, or as outrageous as a Las Vegas retro lounge bash. Whatever you choose, the creative ways to celebrate are endless.

#### Other theme ideas:

- Take me out to the ballgame: Give out tickets to a game, create baseball-card invitations, hand out bags of peanuts, and BBQ up some hotdogs and burgers.
- Casino night: Rent a roulette table and a black-jack table. Make it a high rollers night by specifying a black-tie affair, so everyone can dress up. Serve up a buffet-style dinner with lobster and steak at the forefront. If it's a large enough event, consider hiring a wait staff to serve the guests while they gamble the night away. If you play for real money, turn it into a charity event and donate all the winnings to a good cause.
- Love: Scatter rose petals on the walkway, serve a romantic candlelight dinner, give out chocolate kisses, and include confetti hearts in the invitations.

### 2. Location, location, location

Pick out the perfect party setting to hold your shindig. Have it at your home, a park, the beach, the local community center, or rent a fancy hotel ballroom. Remember that if you are using your home, inform your neighbors beforehand. Better yet, invite them to join you!

### 3. Party-perfect invitations

Start the celebration off right by creating fun and different invitations. Make a puzzle invite or incorporate your party theme. Just don't forget the basics, like when the party begins. You can get some great ideas for invitations at the HP Activity Center.

### 4. It's all about atmosphere

Complement your party theme and get decorating with banners, centerpieces, flowers, balloons, and wall decorations. You can begin establishing the look and feel of your party from the outside by lining your front walk with lights or candles, or hanging decorations from trees and bushes.

### 5. By the book

Providing a guest book can be a fun way to help make the party memorable for you and your guests. Display it during the festivities and invite friends to write quotations, include a sketch, or describe their favorite party moment of the night. Later you can combine entries into a party scrapbook, along with the photo you took of them at the party.

Go for the host- or hostess-of-the-year award, and make it an interactive party activity by letting everyone take pictures throughout the night with your HP digital camera. Then have guests print out their pictures right on the spot with an HP Photosmart 375 compact photo printer. Provide double-stick tape to place photos into the scrapbook. And ask guests to write some fun words or phrases next to their picture.

### **6. Meet and greet**

Can't put a name to the face? Party problem solved! Simply take a digital photo of each arriving guest, print it out on your HP Photosmart 375 4" x 6" photo printer, and post it on a bulletin board with the guest's names listed beneath. This will help everyone get to know each other.

### **7. What a dish!**

Successful entertaining doesn't have to mean that you're stuck in the kitchen while your guests have all the fun. Plan as many make-ahead dishes as you can so you'll be free to enjoy the party. Even build your menu around your theme. Throwing a Japanese theater party? Get out the chopsticks, and whip up a variety of sushi and dipping sauces. Serve green tea or ginger ice cream for dessert.

### **8. Get grooving**

No bash is complete without music. Play theme appropriate music, or just go free-form and take requests from guests. Grab the best songs off your Apple iPod from HP, and burn a CD mix of your favorite tunes for friends to take home.

### **9. Celebrate good times**

You've put a lot of hard work into your bash—now go enjoy it. Make sure to mingle with all of your guests and introduce yourself to new people.

### **10. Send them home with a bang**

Make your party more memorable by sending each guest home with a favorite party moment photo (printed on your HP Photosmart 375 4" x 6" photo printer) or construct mini-photo scrapbooks of the night's events and mail them out as thank-you cards.