



Creating Connections for Caring Communities

Kit 1:
Meet and Greet
Get acquainted with your neighbors

Motivation for coming: Curiosity, Safety, Connections

Project Idea: “Meet and Greet” Get-Together

Summary: Informal gathering to get acquainted with your neighbors and better connect with them. By learning more about each other you can make your neighborhood a friendlier, safer place to live.

What you need:

- A place in the neighborhood to meet
- Name tags
- Neighbor Information Sheet

Optional Extras:

- Refreshments
- Invite local police, city council representatives, emergency management personnel
- Create a Neighborhood Calling Tree or Neighborhood Directory

Checklist for Hosting a Meet and Greet Get-Together

Step 1: Planning the Event

- Determine the boundaries of your neighborhood: Consider natural boundaries (cul-de-sacs, city blocks, circle drives, etc.). Restrict boundaries to a reasonable size.
- Select a location for your Get-Together: Any space will work as long as it is big enough to accommodate the number of neighbors invited – use your living room, back yard, garage, a neighborhood park. If you don't have enough chairs, you can ask neighbors to bring lawn chairs. If you have neighbors with special needs pick a place that is handicap accessible.
- Select a date and time: It is probably best to avoid regular working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and Sunday morning.
- What will you do?: The primary purpose of the gathering is to get acquainted with your neighbors and share information about your family, jobs, pets, ways you can help each other. Other people you might want to invite to join the party and share helpful include:
 - o Local police officer and city council representative: Share information about registered sex offenders, Neighborhood Watch program, Drug Free Zones, Safe Houses. To find out the name of your local police officer, call 535-_____. To contact your city council rep, call 532-_____. Make sure they can come on the day you've chosen
 - o Emergency Management Director: Discuss local warning systems. Learn how to evacuate or how shelter-in-place in the event of a disaster. Develop a neighborhood disaster plan to help each other out. Call Jim Nitz at 532-_____ for more information.

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Step 2: Invite the Neighbors

- Make invitations: Make invitations for each household in the neighborhood. (If you want, you can just photocopy the invitation template in this kit and fill in the necessary information).
- Deliver invitations: Take a friend or family member with you to hand deliver the invitations. Introduce yourself, answer questions, encourage neighbors to come. A personal invitation is much more effective than mailing out an invitation.

Step 3: Host the event

Below are ideas for activities at your Get-Together. Check off those you want to include

- Name Tags: Ask neighbors to fill out name tags when they arrive. A creative idea for name tags is to take pictures of each house in the neighborhood. Print out the photos and make them into name tags. When neighbors arrive, ask them to write their name on the photo of the house they live in and wear this at the get-together.
- Neighborhood Information Sheet: Ask neighbors to fill in whatever information they would like to share with their neighbors on this sheet.
- Refreshments: (optional) Serve simple refreshments – cookies and lemonade, popcorn, chips and dip.
- Get acquainted: If you want you can use one of the “icebreakers” to help people share and get to know each other
- Safety information: (optional) If you have chosen to do this, have your local police officer, city council representative and/or local emergency management director share information on ways to make your neighborhood safer and more prepared for emergencies.
- Neighborhood Calling Tree: Find out if there is interest in setting up a calling tree to share neighborhood information quickly and effectively. For more information on how to do this refer to the Calling Tree sheet
- Neighborhood Directory: Find out if people are interested in having the information they shared on the Neighborhood Information Sheet in a Neighborhood Directory. For more information on how to set up a neighborhood directory, refer to the Directory sheet.
- The Next Step: See if there is interest in doing other neighborhood activities (see other North Platte Neighborhood Power kits).