



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

National Night Out: *It's a Beautiful Night in the Neighborhood*
Tuesday, August 7, 2012 beginning at 5:00pm
Idea Guide: Planning an Event or Gathering



Have you ever wanted to get your neighbors together to build community spirit and to send a message that your neighborhood will not tolerate crime? If so, National Night Out (NNO) is the perfect time to do it!

Holding a NNO event is a great way to get to know your neighbors, celebrate the success of your block or community watch, or gauge your neighbors' interest in starting one. Activities in Pittsburgh neighborhoods range from porch parties to cookouts to community festivals and include visits from police and other public safety personnel.

The City of Pittsburgh holds NNO activities annually on the first Tuesday evening in August, along with many cities across the country. In 2011, 28 community groups in Pittsburgh hosted 37 separate events for about 2,500 City residents, while 37 million people from over 15,000 communities in all 50 states celebrated nationally. This year, National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

For more information about holding an event and to register your NNO activities on the City website, please visit pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/nno. Registered events will receive public safety brochures and activities for children and teens from Mayor Ravenstahl to hand to participants. Any questions may be directed to the Mayor's Neighborhood Initiatives office by emailing Gabriella Grosso at gabriella.grosso@pittsburghpa.gov or by calling (412) 255-4772.

What is National Night Out?

National Night Out started as a porch light vigil, representing each participating community's awareness of crime and their devotion to preventing it. Porch lights were left on as a warning to criminals that crime was not welcome in the community. While the traditional porch light vigil is still very common today, many communities celebrate by hosting picnics and block parties.

Community police and local government officials visit the events to visit with community members. This year, the City of Pittsburgh's National Night Out theme is, "It's a beautiful night in the neighborhood," encouraging all of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods to participate.

"National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for Pittsburgh residents to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention and neighborhood camaraderie," Mayor Ravenstahl said. "It represents the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make our City and our neighborhoods safer places to live."

Not sure what to do? Here are a few ideas.

Your event can be as simple and easy or as complex and well-planned out as you'd like. Whatever you do will depend on the amount of time, effort, energy and resources you have available. Here are a few examples of previous events:

1. In one Pittsburgh neighborhood, *each* resident was asked to turn on their porch light, sit out, and provide refreshments as they enjoy the evening with their neighbors to send a message that their community will not tolerate crime.
2. One block watch hosted a DJ and invited the local magistrate to grill hotdogs. The local firehouse brought its truck and educated kids about fire safety. The SWAT trailer was there for residents to tour and block watch members handed out safety information and gun locks.
3. Another Pittsburgh neighborhood hosted a neighborhood meet-and-greet with sandwiches and beverages. Community members participated in a neighborhood walk, followed by a park clean-up effort and a movie in the park.
4. One community group provided refreshments and handouts for their attendees. In addition, they hosted a kickball game while the playground and neighborhood pool were open for children.
5. Another neighborhood group hosted a gun safety, fire safety and fire equipment demonstration. Residents were able to get fingerprinted and Otto the Auto, AAA's remote-controlled talking car, taught kids about traffic safety. The community hosted a DJ, a mime, a caricature artist, a face painter, mascots, a balloon artist, games, prizes and free refreshments.

Register your NNO Event

Events registered on the City's website will receive public safety information and activities for children and one for teens. Visit pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/nno to register.

512 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, 414 GRANT STREET, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

Phone: 412-255-2626 Fax: 412-255-2687



pittsburghpa.gov



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twitter.com/citypgh

Citiparks activities may be scheduled in your neighborhood on Tuesday, August 7 that might make a good start for your event. Check the Citiparks Summer 2012 Magazine, visit pittsburghpa.gov/parks or call 412-255-2539 for more information.

Churches or other community groups may also have a scheduled event that you can partner with and add a public safety component.

Invite Police and Fire Personnel to Your Gathering

A great part of the National Night Out tradition is the involvement of community leaders in the celebration! Be sure to invite zone police officers, firefighters, or other local officials to your event. Begin by calling:

Police Zone Commanders and Community Relations Officers (CRO)

Zone 1 Commander Rashall Brackney, CRO Forrest Hodges (412) 323-7201
Zone 2 Commander George Trosky, CRO Janine Davis (412) 255-2827
Zone 3 Commander Catherine McNeilly, CRO Christine Luffey (412) 488-8326
Zone 4 Commander Kathryn Degler, CRO Matthew White (412) 422-6520
Zone 5 Commander Timothy O'Conner, CRO Michael L. Gay (412) 665-3605
Zone 6 Commander Scott Schubert, CRO Kenneth Stevwing (412) 937-3051

A map of the police bureau zones in the City of Pittsburgh can be found here:
www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/police/html/police_zones_map.html

Bureau of Fire Headquarters (412) 255-2860

There are many individual fire zones and districts. For a complete list and individual contact information, visit: pittsburghpa.gov/fire/districts.htm

Emergency Management Agency & Homeland Security (412) 255-2633

Learn how to stay safe in an emergency. Visit pittsburghpa.gov/ema

Additional phone numbers can be found on the City of Pittsburgh website at:
www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/main/

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