

A Celebrate Prince George's Party Information for Hosts

One way to promote *Envision Prince George's* and get others involved in helping to meet its goals is to host a small house party with friends, neighbors and/or family. A "Celebrate Prince George's Party" is designed to provide information, give people a chance to share their ideas and celebrate the good things our county has to offer. It also can be a fun way to get to know neighbors that you have met before, but never really sat down to talk with.

All of the materials you need for a Celebrate Prince George's Party can be downloaded from this website. In addition to this description of how to organize and conduct the party, you need copies of the following:

- Background piece on *Envision Prince George's*
- The Envision Prince George's Survey
- A copy of the Envision Prince George's Quiz

How To Organize The Party

Decide who you want to invite—Make a list of people you would like to invite to your party. If you want 8-10 to come you may have to invite twice that many.

Set a time—The house party should be about 1 ½ hours in length (a little longer if you want to socialize a lot) and so determine a time that is convenient for you when you think others can attend. Most house parties will be in the evening—perhaps after dinner—or on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Issue invitations—You can contact people via email, personal visits or calls. Explain briefly that you are having a small neighborhood gathering as part of *Envision Prince George's* to get their views on some issues facing the county and explore some interesting and enjoyable things to in the county.

Gather the things you need—Get together the materials you want to share about *Envision Prince George's* and the resources in the county. Make enough copies of the survey, the quiz and/or any other handouts you are going to use. You may also wish to do some research on your own and identify other materials about the county you want to share. It's also a good idea to have some refreshments if you can (after all—it's a party!) and you may want to get some of those who are coming to also bring some refreshments to share.

Plan your agenda- The basic elements of A Celebrate Prince George's Party are found in the following agenda. You can adjust these segments to meet your needs, but the party should be composed of the various types of activities listed there.

A Celebrate Prince George's Party Agenda

Welcome and Explanation of Purpose

Tell everyone how glad you are they have come and summarize briefly the purpose of the party.

Introductions

Ask everyone present to give their name, where they live, and one or two things they like about living in Prince George's County

Explanation of Envision Prince George's

Read a brief description of the purpose of *Envision Prince George's* and give everyone present some basic information about it. Tell them about the website and explain they can get more information there.

Give a Quiz on Prince George's County

Have everyone take a quiz on the county and then score its results. Talk briefly with people about the results and what surprises them about what they know and don't know about Prince George's County.

Have participants fill out a survey and discuss the results

Pass out the individual survey and give everyone five minutes to fill it out. Then lead a short discussion in which you ask people to share answers they gave to each of the questions.

Share Ways to Enjoy the County

Give people information about interesting places in the county (there are some links to various sites and other suggestions on the website) and then also ask them to share information about places in the county that they enjoy. In particular, ask people to tell each other about interesting and fun places to go that others may not know about.

Invite People to Be More Involved in Celebrating Prince George's County

Offer a few suggestions about how people can be involved in the life of the county. Explain what they can do to share their ideas with *Envision Prince George's*. Also suggest that they pick something in the county they've never taken advantage of before---one thing to do or one place to visit—and pledge to experience it in the near future.

Closing Comments

Thank people for coming and also ask them if they have final comments or questions they want to share.

Refreshments and social time

Serve refreshments and invite people to stay and talk informally for a while. Allow people to visit with each other and get to know each other for as long as seems appropriate.

