

Ice Cream Taste Test



Try out different ice cream flavors with your neighbors in this fun twist on an ice cream social! Invite everyone to create their own unique ice cream masterpieces. Then, conduct a taste test to see which is the crowd favorite!

Budget

\$225 - \$300

Difficulty Level

Easy

Location Suggestions

- Front yard
- Closed street (Block Party Permit required)
- Park
- Community Center

City Support

[Mini-Grant funding](#) is available!

Material List | Estimated Cost

- **Ice cream materials:**
 - Flavors | 8 quarts | \$32
 - Toppings | 8 types | \$24
 - Serving spoons or scoops | \$12
 - Cones or cups | 24 | \$6
- **Napkins | \$2**
- **Trash bins | \$10**
- **Rented tables and chairs | \$40-\$70**
- **Optional:**
 - Block Party Permit
- **Cooler | \$20**
- **Sandwich bag ice cream | \$45**
 - Half-and-half
 - Vanilla extract
 - Sugar
 - Ice
 - Rock salt
 - Gallon and sandwich bags
- **Judging score cards**
- **Decorations | \$40-60**

Step by Step | How to Plan this Event

1-2 Months Before Event

1 Set a Time & Location

- **Pick a time** when most of your neighbors will be **available**.
- **Pick a spot** with **adequate space** for all of your guests and tables for them to eat at.



2 Obtain Any Necessary Permits and Permissions

If you're closing a residential street, you will need to apply for a [Block Party Permit](#) for an eligible street.

3 Weeks Before Event

3 Purchase Ice Cream and Toppings

- Buy **pre-packaged ice cream** from local stores. **Choose a variety of ice cream flavors**.
- **Get weird!** Purchase conventional toppings, like chocolate chips, and fun surprises, such as spices.
- Alternatively, consider inviting guests to make ice cream using the "sandwich bag" method.



Make Your Own Ice Cream Sandwich Bag Method

- Put **1/2 cup of half-and-half, 1 tablespoon sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla** into a small sandwich bag. Squeeze out extra air and seal.
- In a gallon sized plastic bag, **mix ice and rock salt**.
- Place the small bag inside the larger one. Shake or squeeze for 7 to 10 minutes until the ice cream firms up.
- Take the small bag out of the large one and add toppings!



4 Set Taste Test Guidelines

Your neighbors will judge the ice cream combinations!

Determine judging criteria. You can make up your own, or use our suggested categories!

Suggested categories:

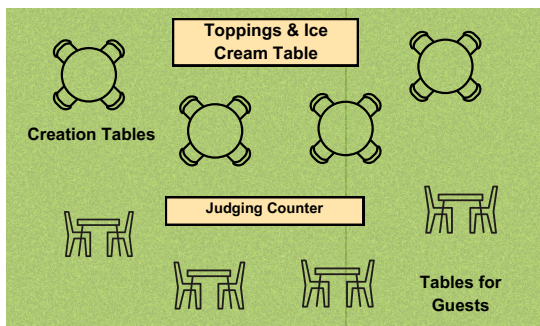
- Taste
- Creativity
- Texture
- Presentation



6 Plan the Site Arrangement

Plan a setup that works for your chosen space.

Potential Layout



 Day-Of Event | 1 Hour Before

7 Set Up Tasting Stations

- **Set up tables and seating** with labeled ice cream flavors and toppings, serving spoons or scoops, and tasting cups or cones.
- **Don't take out the ice cream** until your guests begin to arrive. If you have a cooler, store the ice cream outside in the cooler until you need to take them out.



5 Promote Event

Extend invitations to your neighbors!

- **At Least 2-3 Weeks Before | Social Media and Email:** Post on Nextdoor, Facebook, and/or Instagram. Email if you can.
- **1 Week Before | Flyers:** Go door-to-door. Design colorful flyers, postcards, or personal invitations.
- **1 Day Before | Reminder:** Send out a reminder message on social media or by email.



Fun Tips

Invite your guests to bring their own toppings!



For a different approach, offer blindfolds to neighbors. Invite them to taste and guess each ice cream creation!



 Day-Of Event | Start of Event

8 Create Ice Cream!

Invite your neighbors to **combine different** ice cream flavors and toppings! **Give them 10-15 minutes.**

Combine ingredients in a bowl or try out the sandwich bag method!

9 Judge

Set dishes on the judging table, and taste! Provide participants with **scorecards or feedback forms** to record their thoughts on each flavor.

Love your creation? **Judge your own!**

Calculate the winner!