

# Meet Your Neighbor Day 2017

## Sunday, September 17, 2017

Convened by the [Cambridge Peace Commission](#), [Meet Your Neighbor Day](#) is a Cambridge-specific approach to building connections and community in our amazing city. Inspired by the growing need to connect with each other, we have borrowed from two national initiatives, and adapted them to fit the needs of our city!

[Meet Your Neighbor Day](#) is built on the foundation of two nationwide efforts — Welcoming America's "Welcoming Week" and the "National Neighborhood Day" initiative — and organized in collaboration with another City of Cambridge partner —the [Citizens' Committee on Civic Unity](#)

**National Neighborhood Day** inspires, builds, and sustains the neighborhood relationships that provide the foundation for civic action and the building of stronger, more caring and effective communities.

Welcoming America's **Welcoming Week** brings communities together long-time residents, newcomers, and everyone in between in a spirit of unity to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone – including new Americans.

Recognizing the power of grassroots, locally-based action, [Meet Your Neighbor Day](#) is a chance to plan something that can bring together your neighbors in that way that works for you! Here are just a few of ideas for *your* special gathering:

### Fun Ideas:

- Neighborhood party
- Welcome new neighbors
- Yard sale

### Food and Drink:

- Potluck
- Barbecue
- Dessert party/ice cream social

### Games (Great ice breaker activities!):

- Charades
- Board games
- Dominoes
- Other games with themes of unity

### Neighborhood Projects:

- Neighborhood service project, followed by a fun gathering
- Neighborhood walking tour

### Community Agencies and Local Businesses:

- Partner with a local arts organization to highlight cultural diversity
- Invite local nonprofit organizations to come with information about their services
- Involve local businesses to have an open house, or use their facilities for an event

*More ideas on the other side!*



# More Ideas for Meet Your Neighbor Day 2017

## Fun Ideas:

- Neighborhood party
- Welcome new neighbors
- Yard sale
- Kids performance or play
- Outdoor movie screening
- Arts and crafts festival
- Share resources (for example, extra produce from garden, tool sharing)
- Assemble "Party Buckets" with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, etc.
- Provide a basket of kids' books with a neighborhood theme

## Games (Great ice breaker activities!):

- Charades
- Twister
- Four square
- Board games
- Cards
- Dominoes
- Other games with themes of unity
- "More Than One Story" card game

## Food and Drink:

- Potluck
- Barbecue
- Dessert party/ice cream social
- Picnic
- Pizza party
- Lemonade stand
- Cookie exchange

## Neighborhood Projects:

- Consider organizing a neighborhood service project for the morning, followed by fun gathering later in the day
- Neighborhood walking tour
- Make a photo scrapbook or video of your neighborhood

## Community Agencies and Local Businesses:

- Partner with a local arts organization to highlight cultural diversity
- Invite the community health center to set up a resources table at your gathering, hand out information and brochures, answer questions, discuss services, etc.
- Invite neighborhood firefighters and/or police officers to your gathering –great way for you to meet and learn the names of the people who protect and serve your neighborhood – plus kids love it when the fire truck comes to a gathering!
- Invite local nonprofit organizations to come and hand out information about their services
- Involve any businesses in the neighborhood: open house, using their facilities for the event
- Ask local businesses to get involved – provide a coupon for a discount on services or products, donations: trees, flowers, food, drink

## Thanks to the following organizations for gathering ideas:

[www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org) • [www.neighborhoodday.org](http://www.neighborhoodday.org) • [www.bettertogether.org/150ways.htm](http://www.bettertogether.org/150ways.htm)



# Frequently Asked Questions about Meet Your Neighbor Day

*Adapted from National Neighborhood Day*

## What is a gathering?

- A party, potluck, service project, neighborhood clean-up – whatever is fun and easy for you and your neighbors to plan and carry out. You decide what works best in your neighborhood. See [Ideas for Your Gathering](http://www.neighborhoodday.org) from [www.neighborhoodday.org](http://www.neighborhoodday.org).

## How is a “neighborhood” defined?

- However you choose to define it!
  - Your street or block or surrounding blocks
  - Your apartment or condominium
  - Your floor at your apartment building
  - The area surrounding your nearby school or place of worship
  - Houses along your part of the street
  - Your local park
  - Your local square or business district

## Why just one day – Sunday, September 17 – for Meet Your Neighbor Day?

- We recommend a single day to serve as a rallying point for people across the City of Cambridge – and it’s an easy reminder to annually “refresh” neighborhood connections.
- The third Sunday in September is a day that works well with many annual calendars and fits with most school schedules. And the weather is usually nice!
- But...the most important thing is to connect! You can pick another day if that works for you, your neighbors, or your community!

## This sounds familiar – isn’t there already something like this?

- Barbecues, Fourth of July, Halloween, days of service, problem solving discussions, neighborhood barbecues – these are all good things! [Meet Your Neighbor Day](#) is a day that may be used to promote and increase involvement in any number of other local activities. The more connections, the better neighbors come to know each other, the more good things happen organically (community service, collaboration, emergency preparedness, youth/adult mentor relationships, etc.)
- [Meet Your Neighbor Day](#) is about **neighborhood** relationships: building relationships and inspiring activities, methods and tools for deliberately making connections that make a difference to individuals, neighborhoods and the larger community.

## Does [Meet Your Neighbor Day](#) support any political causes?

- No. We are non-political and non-sectarian.

