



Five Tips For a Successful Grad Party

- 1. Pick a date** Most schools will hold commencements around the first weekend of June. Some people want it over with the next day. In Michigan the weather warms up as June progresses. Saturdays and Sundays are both good days. People tend to avoid Fathers Day, but it offers dad more to do than open a card or go golfing. The July 4th weekend should be avoided. Parties now book through July. This leaves 7 weekends to look at for dates. Remember, if you pick the 28th of June it will be the most popular date which makes all of your planning and contacts with vendors more critical. It also means that people you invite will have several other invites for the same date. Discuss the date with the graduate, it is their party.
- 2. Invite guests** Send an open house invite with the Graduation announcement. Send a separate invite 3-4 weeks ahead. Invite all family members, friends from school and you can include friends the parents work with. They get to know you better and share in your special event. Plan on a response of 60-70 percent. Some will stay all day and others will pop in and out. On busy weekends you are competing with other parties for the guests and their ability to afford bring a gift for the graduate.
- 3. Party Rental Equipment** Contact a party rental company early in January or February. After April There may not be tents, tables and chairs available. Don't put this off and don't expect to find anything for June at the last minute. If you have 100 people coming you will want seating for no more than half to cover your peak attendance time. Make sure the tent will fit in your available space and ask them if they can check it for you. Most will do this, some will charge. Banquet tables and round tables both seat 6-8 people depending on the size, but a tent can hold more banquet tables than round tables. Is set-up included? Is there a delivery fee? Don't forget table covers or linens. Make sure delivery is assured before the party.
- 4. Decorations** can include a personalized congratulatory banner, balloons, balloon bouquets and there are pre-packaged decorations available. Know the school colors. Some grads will see this as important and others will want to use the colors of the new college they will attend. Some companies carry plastic-ware in many colors and there are even elastic fitted table covers available.
- 5. Food and Entertainment** Decide on a theme for the food and also for the décor and for fun. Tropical, western, BBQ, Mexican, a pig roast and 50s are popular. If this is a catered event check with several caterers and chose well in advance. Prices will start at about \$10 per person and go up. Ask your friends for a referral. You have the option of having it completely catered or you can pick up the food and serve it yourself. Keep the food simple. If you are doing it yourself avoid the oven. Cold salads and foods along with meat grilled on the spot keeps you out of the kitchen. Or you can pick up the meat from a supermarket, fast food, deli, or the caterer already cooked. Remember that this is an open house and people are coming and going. A DJ or karaoke goes over well later in the day. Magicians are fun and can work with this type of party. Inflatable Bounces, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Frozen Drink Machines, Grills, and Ice Cream Carts can be easy, affordable and user friendly and can be rented for the day.

Uncle Bucks Party

3202 Old Farm Lane, Walled Lake, MI 48390 248-666-5432