



Family Gathering Guide - Advice from past organizers

How do I host a Family Gathering?

Decide on a date. Try to pick a time of year when travel won't be too difficult. If you want to host along with another family, decide on the date together. Don't worry too much about finding the "perfect" date. No matter what date you pick, some families won't be able to attend. Just resolve to have another gathering later that they can come to.

Note: Have a bad weather alternative date

Pick a location:

Some gatherings have been in people's homes or backyards, in local or state parks, at a hotel with a small water park, or a local campground. You want a space that is big enough so kids can run around, but not so big that they might wander off.

Location Ideas:

- Your home or back yard
- Local playground/park
- State Park
- Zoo
- Amusement Park
- Hotel
- Local Sports Games
- Restaurant
- Pool/ water park/ beach

To Do:

- Make necessary reservations if it's in a park or a campground; you may be able to reserve a shelter with picnic tables and bathrooms.
- Request Nonprofit Discount or Group Rates for locations that have a rental or admission price. The Dup15q Alliance will provide a letter for a written requests and proof of 501(c)(3) status.
- If there is a rental cost.
- Figure out the final costs so you can let everyone know up front. There may not be any big costs besides gas to drive to your location. If people are going to stay overnight, you'll need to include hotel rates. Don't forget to include any extra costs associated with going to an amusement park or water park.

Activities

Plan some low key activities to take place before or after your shared meal: swimming at a local lake or hotel water park, walk through a local (free) zoo or historic village, play at a playground. Plan a bad weather alternative.

Plan for Food/Drinks

You can make it a potluck and ask people to bring certain things for a picnic lunch (bread, chips, lunch meat, cheese, condiments, fruit, cookies) and everyone can make their own sandwiches. You can all share an order of pizzas (let people know ahead of time what they might need to contribute). If people have food allergies, just encourage them to bring their own food, and confirm with them what types of food (example: peanut butter.)

- You can check with local businesses and see if they would donate a case of water or chips in return for an announcement about them at the event and a thank you on the website. The Dup15q Alliance will provide a letter for written requests and proof of 501 (c) (3) status.