

How to run a Street Bake-off



What is a Street Bake-off?



A Street Bake-off is simply a friendly competition between neighbours to show off their baking skills, have fun and eat cake over a cuppa. Neighbours commit to entering their special baked treats, entries are judged, a winner awarded, and cake is eaten!

You can make the focus about all types of cakes, fabulous sponges, best-ever cookies or any sweet treats people like to cook!

Steps in planning:

1. Find another person in the street who would like to help you organise the event. Consider another person who loves to cook, likes to organise things, enjoys eating cake or all the above! You might look for experienced granny bakers, mums who do it all, secret dad bakers and kids who are whizzes in the kitchen. Ask around...others will know who they are if you don't!
2. Set a date at least 3-4 weeks in advance to garner interest and get some people committed to being involved before the date. Pick a time to suit people who are working; a Saturday or Sunday afternoon might work well.
3. Pick a venue to hold the event and try and keep it local. It could be your front yard, a local park or a front verandah at your neighbours' home. These events are better if they are not too big. Keep it simple! Up to ten cooks is enough to make the cakes with more invited to eat the entries together!
4. You might seek out a local pastry chef at the bakery down the road or patisserie around the corner and engage them as the volunteer judge on the day.
5. Consider having a fun prize for the winner. You don't need to spend money. You can get some kids to create a winner's certificate and put it in a frame, organise a free cake and coffee from your local cafe or a fun trophy of an op-shop cake plate.

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6. Design an invitation for a letter drop in your surrounding streets-see the [suggested templates](#) on our website for what to include but be sure to talk about the judge, the prize and appeal to fun and creativity - make it your own! Put in an RSVP to ensure you know how many people will be involved.
7. Make sure your invitation includes clear instructions on what you expect them to do. For example. *To enter the Bake-off we need you to bake your favourite sponge cake and bring it along on ...*
8. Print out the invitations and letter drop in your local streets ([ask us for advice](#) on how many). Consider a post on your community Facebook page if you are on social media but be mindful of keeping to a smaller group to make it easier to manage.

On the day of the event:

1. At the venue, set up a long table with a tablecloth. You will also need hot water/thermos, cups and saucers, cake plates and forks/spoons. You might suggest people bring their own cups if you are at a park. Also have water on hand.
2. Download our [contact list](#), bring name tags and pens and gather details to have a list for future event invitations.
3. Arrange for the judge to do the taste test and award the winner!
4. Celebrate great baking and enjoy your afternoon tea with new friends and neighbours.



Disclaimer: This is a suggested format only. Neighbourhood Connect Inc. accepts no responsibility or liability for groups undertaking this activity and they do so at their own risk.

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