

The **NEW**

Summer Connections

is all about

YOU!



**Starting
July 5**

The *New Summer Connections* is all about **YOU!**

I realize this might seem like a funny theme for a Summer Outreach Program—but let me explain!

This year we are relying on **YOU** to promote your Connection and invite guests to **YOUR** event! **YOU** get to create **YOUR** own poster and sign-up sheet for **YOUR** event. **YOU** get to decide when it goes up (if you'd like **YOUR** event advertised for two weeks or two months—it's up to **YOU!**) Simply create **YOUR** poster & sign-up sheet and put it up on the Summer Connections Display in the front lobby!

Also! **YOU** are no longer restricted as to what type of Connection **YOU** would like to host. We are encouraging **YOU** to think outside the box & host an event that **YOU** are excited about!

Hopefully this packet will help you as you embark on the exciting adventure of hosting a Summer Connection! Remember, we do all of this in order to better connect with God, our church, and our community!

Serving In Him,

The Sunday School Ministries Board

Think

Outside

The Box

“Menu”

1. How to Throw a Great Summer Connection
2. Fun Party Ideas
3. Making Meaningful Connections

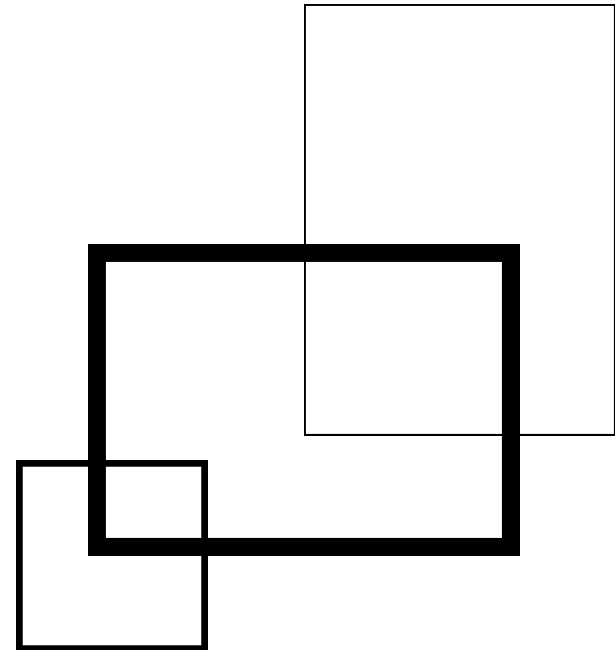
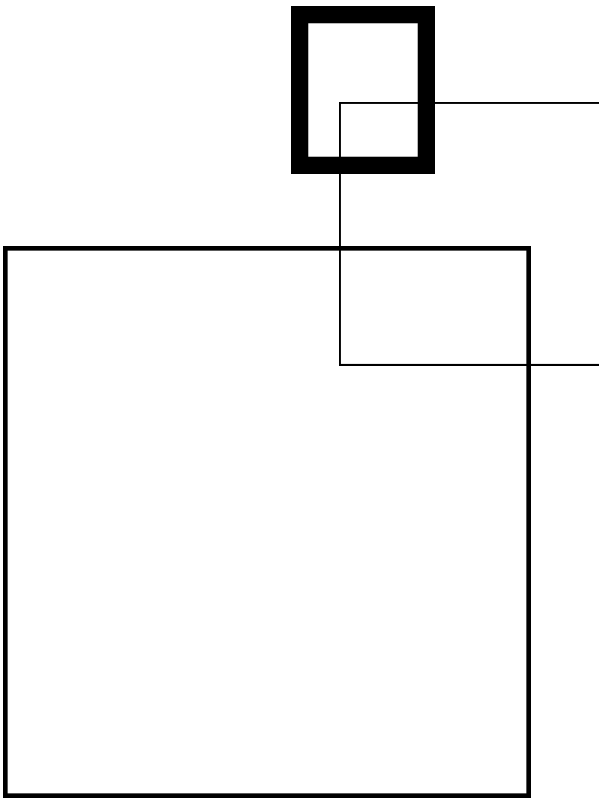
How to Throw a Great Summer Connection

INVITE!

ADVERTISE!

PLAN!

CONNECT!



How to Throw a Great Summer Connection!

INVITE!

Simply putting up a poster in the lobby doesn't insure attendance to your connection. With a little extra effort, you can add that personal touch and have a better chance of people attending!

Personally invite people to your Connection!

1. Mail Invitations!
2. Send E-vites (www.evite.com is an easy, free, on-line invitation tool!)
3. Extend Verbal Invitations!

Don't just invite your best friends! Invite . . .

1. Neighbors
2. Newcomers
3. Your child's soccer coach, piano teacher, dance instructor, etc.
4. People you see every Sunday but have never talked with!
5. Go through the church directory and find a name you don't recognize!
Give them a call, or mail them an invitation! Who knows, maybe they'll turn out to be your new best friend!

How to Throw a Great Summer Connection!

ADVERTISE!

- Advertise at least TWO weeks ahead of time!
- Make sure your Connections Poster is eye-catching, easy to read and has all the necessary information (see samples & poster regulations included in packet).
- Remember, it is helpful to mention things like pets, and whether or not your event is kid-friendly.
- You will need to decide if you want people to RSVP or if you just want it to be an open invitation.
- You may have a sign-up sheet along with your poster, or you can have people contact you directly to RSVP.

How to Throw a Great Summer Connection!

PLAN!

- Make all your preparations ahead of time! We don't want you missing church because you're at home getting ready for your Summer Connection!
- Keep it simple, and feel free to ask guests to arrive 20 minutes after church so you can have a head start!
- If you need a lot of prep time, consider hosting your event on a day other than Sunday.

How to Throw a Great Summer Connection!

CONNECT

Remember, as a host it is your job to help people connect! Not everyone is a natural conversationalist. Sometimes silly little “ice breakers” can help get things going.

Simple Suggestions:

- Write out different conversation starters (such as “What is one of your favorite childhood memories?” or “Where is your favorite vacation place?”). Place the conversation starters in a jar and pull one out during “awkward silences” or just to get the party started!
- Play “Two Truths and a Lie!” No preparation needed! Simply ask people to come up with two truths and a lie about themselves then have the rest of the group guess which one is a lie! A great way to get to know each other better!

The page features several overlapping geometric shapes. On the left, there is a large vertical rectangle with a thin black border. Above its top-right corner, a smaller rectangle with a thin border overlaps it. Above that, a small square with a thick black border overlaps the thin-bordered rectangle. To the right of the text, there is a vertical rectangle with a thin border. Below its bottom-left corner, a larger horizontal rectangle with a thick black border overlaps it. Below that, a small square with a thin border overlaps the thick-bordered rectangle.

Fun Party Ideas

Fun Party Ideas

Remember, you don't have to provide all the food!
Have a "potluck" party where guests all bring a dish to share!

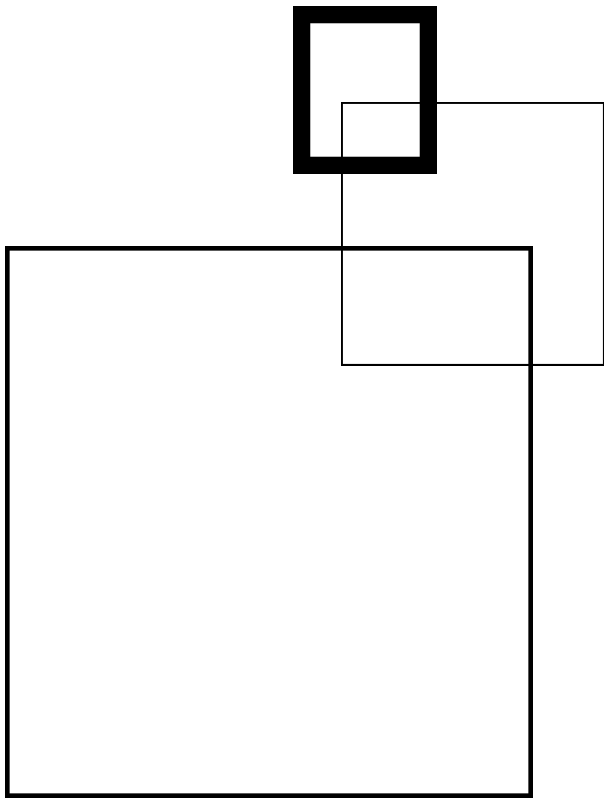
- Fiesta—Serve Tacos, Nachos, Salsa & Guacamole!
- Luau—Give out leis, put up some tiki torches & have a limbo contest!
- Progressive Lunch—Team up with two or three other families to host a Progressive Lunch! Your guests will begin at one home where they will have appetizers, then they will travel to the second home for the main meal, and then to the third home for dessert!
- Regressive Lunch—#3, but in reverse! Start with Dessert first! (your kids will love it!)

Fun Party Ideas

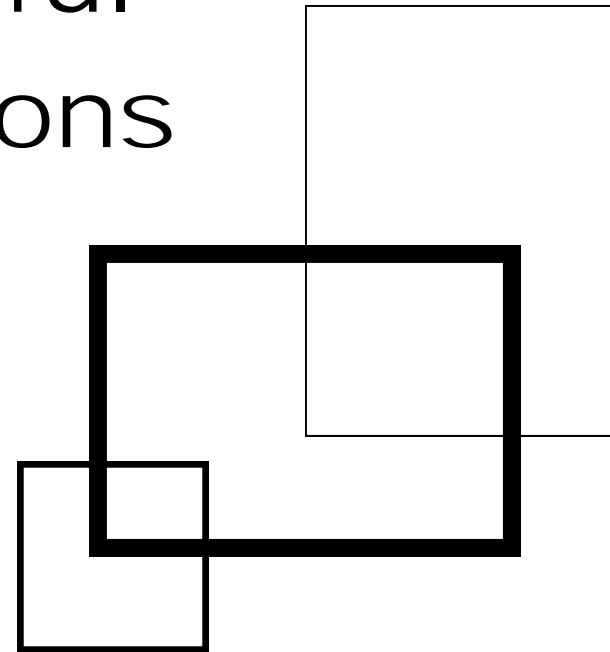
- Chip and Dip Party!—Have a variety of chips, pretzels, veggies, etc. to go along with a number of different dips!
- Formal Tea Party! Get out your good china (or those funky dishes you bought at Salvation Army!) And have a “formal tea”! Serve flavored teas, finger sandwiches and crumpets! (whatever those are!)
- Breakfast for Lunch!—Waffles, Eggs, Bacon, Pancakes and Sausage are good anytime of day!
- Junk Lunch!—Just this once, give in to your inner child! Serve snow cones, corn dogs, ice cream, candy—whatever you enjoyed when you were 8 years old!

Fun Party Ideas

- Get Real! —For those of you who are into organic foods—have a Get Real Party! Invite others who share in your passion for organic foods. Share recipes and ideas, all while getting to know each other better!
- Loaves and Fishes!—Do you like to fish? Organize a group to grab sandwiches after church then head to the lake for a time of fishing & fellowship!



Making Meaningful Connections



Making Meaningful Connections

- If you are having a large Connection, consider having name-tags for your guests so that they may use each others' first names.
- Ask your guests to share their faith story. (This is usually best done in a small group setting. Be sensitive and realize that most people do not like sharing in a large group setting.)
- Share your faith story with your guests.
- Start and/or end your Connection with prayer.

FIESTA!

You're invited to a Festive Fiesta!

July 2, 2009

At

The Sombrero's House
123 Ole Ave
Uxbridge, MA 01569



Join us for Tacos & Nachos!

Please arrive 20 minutes after church so we have time to get the food ready!

This is a Kid-Friendly Event!

Our pool is open, so feel free to bring your swimsuit!
(We do have a friendly dog & two anti-social cats.)

Sip & Snack!

Join us for lemonade & appetizers after church!

Stan & Lola Smith
123 Connection Lane
Uxbridge, MA 01569

No RSVP Necessary! Just show up!

POSTER REGULATIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Must be on 8¹/₂ by 11 paper.

- May be as elaborate or as simple as you'd like.
- Does not have to be computerized, it may be homemade.
- Keep information clear & easy to read.
- Be sure to include:
 - Location
 - RSVP Information
 - Maximum Number of Guests
 - If guests are required to bring anything
 - If your event is "kid-friendly"
 - List any pets in the home (in case of allergies)

REMEMBER!

These will be hanging in the lobby—so we want them to look nice!

Summer Connections Sundays' Schedule

Pick a Sunday to Host!

July 12	July 19	July 26	August 2*	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
------------	------------	------------	--------------	-------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

**VBS Cookout is August 2, but if you're not involved in VBS you are welcome to host a Summer Connection that day!*

Picnic at Pastor Bob's House!

(No other Summer Connections needed for these dates)

July 5	Sept. 6
-----------	------------

REMEMBER! If a Sunday doesn't work for you, feel free to have your Connection any other day of the week!

Poster Template

Not Creative?

No Time?

No Problem!

Use this simple Fill-in-the-Blank
template as your poster!

Summer Connection!

When:

Where:

Hosted By:

Number of Guests:

Please Bring:

RSVP:

Special Information:

Summer Connection Sign-Up Sheet!

Host's Name:

Day/Time of the Connection: