



Youth Pride House Party

don't grow up invisible



Request Your House Party Kit Today

Expected Party Date and Time:

Full Name(s) of Hosts:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

Email Address:

May we publicize your House Party? Yes No

Event Description:

Number Invitations Requested:

Attire:

Please mail or fax this form to YPI at least six weeks in advance of your party date.

Thank You for Supporting YPI

Youth Pride, Inc.
171 Chestnut St.
Providence, RI 02903
401-421-5626
FAX: 401-274-1990



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Host Guide

Thank you for supporting YPI and its mission *to support, advocate for, and empower LGBTQQ youth*. To show you how easy it is to host a YPI house party, we have answered a few frequently asked questions about this event.

A house party is a fun and energizing way to educate people about YPI, raise much needed funds to support YPI's work, and identify others in your community interested in getting more involved with YPI.

Why: In Rhode Island, LGBTQQ youth don't have to grow up invisible. Youth Pride, Inc. (YPI) is Rhode Island's only nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the social, emotional and educational needs of LGBTQQ youth, and their allies.

Who: Invite as many or few guests as makes sense for you -- neighbors, co-workers, family and friends. Encourage folks to invite their partners and friends. Attendance at house parties has ranged from 15 to 75, and depends on the focus, venue of your party.

Where: Depending upon you, your budget and your guests, the place to hold your party may be your favorite restaurant or event hall, or your own home or backyard. Some house parties consist of wine and cheese in the living room; coffee in the kitchen; a wine tasting party; or an evening at the beach with a bonfire and marshmallows. Themes work wonders. We've enclosed an additional sheet of ideas and encourage you to be creative.

When: Any time of the year is perfect to host a YPI house party. You could have hot chocolate during a poetry reading in January, a Summer barbeque in the back yard, a chic cocktail party to welcome Spring, or a party centered around a sporting event, or popular television program, such as *Desperate Housewives*, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy/Girl*, *Queer as Folk*, *The L Word* or *the Academy Awards*.

How:

- About six to eight weeks before your party date, submit a House Party Kit Request Form to YPI. This allows plenty of time for the invitations to be printed and sent to you for mailing and for us to coordinate the attendance of YPI representatives and/or speakers.
- Send out your invitations (provided by YPI) at least four weeks before the party. Make follow up calls about a week before the party to verify the number attending. For those unable to attend, feel free to ask them if they would be willing to receive information and donate to YPI. An example of how you might pose this request may be something like this, "*since you are unable to attend my dessert party and gain five pounds, how about donating the \$50 dollars you would have had to spend on various weight loss programs?*"



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Host Guide (continued)

- By the time of the party, have everything ready and make certain the sign in sheet is available and accessible to each guest. Encourage your guests to fill in all of the information so that they can be fully recognized for their contribution.
- At some point during the party, you will want to directly ask your guests to make a contribution or pledge to support YPI. Some hosts have found it helpful to have a basket for YPI pledge envelopes and pens. If you would like assistance with the formal ask, YPI may be able to provide a speaker or provide enough information so that you will feel knowledgeable enough to make the ask yourself. We've also included a "script" to help you think through what you may want to say.
- Most important, enjoy the moment. At the end of your party, be sure to acknowledge and thank everyone who attended. Within the following week or so after the party, you may wish to make follow up calls about the success of the party or you may want to send out thank you cards to your guests.

HOST ITEMS TO REMEMBER	WHEN TO DO	DONE	COMMENTS
Send out invitations	4-6 weeks before party		
Coordinate speakers with YPI where appropriate	4-6 weeks before party		
Make follow up calls to invitees	1 week before party		
Host the party	N/A		
Send donations and sign-in sheets to YPI	Within 5 days after party		
Send thank you cards to your guests	Within 1 week after party		
Send donation envelope and brochure to guests unable to attend	Within 1 week after party		



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Party Ideas

Desserts: Have a dessert party, showcasing desserts from local restaurants. Ask the restaurants to donate desserts in exchange for promotion at the event.

Door Prizes: Raffle off some donated items at your house party. Ask your favorite restaurant to donate dinner for two, or get tickets to a comedy show.

Elegance: Hold your event at an elegant home (yours or a friend's). Include a tour of the home as part of your house party.

Honoring: Honor a special person in your community and plan a party to recognize this person (please make sure that the person agrees to support YPI's work).

Arbitrary Themes: Pick a theme, any theme. Food (BBQ, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails); attire (70s Night, masquerade, Halloween); games (Balderdash, Trivial Pursuit, card night); sports (Super Bowl, NCAA Final Four, Olympics, etc.); popular television shows (Desperate Housewives, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy/Girl, Queer as Folk, The L Word or the Academy Awards or whatever your guests might enjoy).

Special Family Event: Birthdays, engagement or commitment parties, anniversaries, or other traditional gift giving holidays can be really great opportunities to introduce people to give to YPI.

Beverages: Host a wine-tasting, beer tasting, gourmet coffee, or gourmet tea party

Activity Parties: Bowling, ice skating, gardening, rock-climbing, whitewater rafting, bird watching, volleyball, sailing, swimming, or whatever you like!

No-Show Party: Send guests a fun, invitation not to attend the party in exchange for a donation. Have them RSVP using an alternative form you generate, such as:

- I do not wish to bike, swim, and run in the YPI Triathlon; please find enclosed the \$75 I would have spent on painkilling meds, muscular therapy, and Ben-Gay had I chosen to remind myself and our friends that my varsity days are over.
- I humbly decline to humiliate myself by dressing as Marilyn Monroe for your Halloween Party. Enclosed please find the \$50 I would have spent on vintage clothing and make-up.
- While I would love to come to your Dessert Party and gain 5 pounds, my cholesterol levels are alarmingly high, and I can't spend another minute at the gym. Enclosed please find the \$50 I might have spent on weight-loss products.



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Making "the Ask"

As You're Planning What to Say:

1. **Asking people for money is always easier when you really believe in the cause.** People sense your commitment and they want to help when you give an organization your personal endorsement. Before asking your guests to support us, ask yourself, what is it about YPI's work that moves you to host a house party? What do you think is most important about our work? Perhaps you have a personal or professional story to share, or remember what it was like when you were growing up. If possible, please **personalize your remarks so that your guests see your connection to our work.**
2. **You know your guests** better than we do. You invited them because you thought they might be interested in helping YPI achieve its goals, and you should **trust your instincts.** Your guests like you, and they are interested in hearing what you have to say. Many people will give money, but some may prefer to give time (volunteer) or host their own house party. Others may not be able to help at this time, but they may learn something that allows them to refer young people. **As you make the ask, please emphasize that there are many ways to support YPI.**
3. **If you are likely to have young children attending,** you may want to set up a play room or a supervised activity for them during your "ask," so that your guests can focus on YPI.
4. **We've included a sample script for the "ask".** This is meant only to be a guide. [Be creative or keep it simple, have YPI guests share their stories or share your own.] We encourage you to use your own words, themes and examples. Again, you know your guests, their interests, and will know what kind of information they'll appreciate most.



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Sample Script

As you know, our party today is for a purpose. We're here today not only to enjoy each other's company, but also to support the essential programs and services which YPI provides. Youth Pride, Inc. is Rhode Island's only organization dedicated to the support and empowerment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning young people. I'd like to tell you a story about [insert subject here—for example, a young person I know who needed help and didn't know that YPI even existed, or something that happened when you were young].

One of the amazing things about YPI is that your gift goes a long way to help LGBTQQ young people. For example, an annual gift of \$150 can help provide services such as counseling, and peer support for a young person who has experienced a hate crime or has been kicked out of his/ her home; a gift of \$500 can support a school's Gay/ Straight Alliance for the school year. [Gay/ Straight Alliances are student organizations at schools whose members support and affirm young LGBTQQ folks. Students in GSAs are not necessarily LGBTQQ.] There are as many ways to give as there are uses for your gift; for example, you can write a check today, you can give by credit card, you can pledge to give quarterly, or you can go to the YPI website and give securely online. No gift is too small, and all gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Most importantly, though, is the impact that your gift can make on the whole community. There is a lot of competition for scarce resources. As you might imagine, some funders such as foundations, corporations and other groups are uncertain about giving to YPI, but they will be more inclined to fund YPI if they see that a lot of individuals, and possibly people they know, give to YPI. Even more critical is showing our young people that they are supported by their community. I'm asking each of you to give to YPI if you can, and to help other people you know learn about the good work that YPI is doing.

I hope you will think about making a gift to YPI today. (Customize:) You'll find a table inside where you may leave your check or pledge in a basket. You will also find forms where you can sign up to volunteer or to host your own house party for YPI. However and whenever you do choose to give to YPI, I appreciate your time, and your support for young people.

Note: If you would like a YPI representative to speak with your guests about YPI, we will be happy to provide a speaker (staff, Board member, young people) with advance notice. Please call (401) 421-5626 or email youth_pride@yahoo.com.



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House Party Kit Evaluation

Thank you for hosting a house party for Youth Pride, Inc. Your generosity and caring for the future of our LGBTQQ youth is deeply appreciated.

Our goal is to continue to improve our House Party Kit so that it will be the ultimate assistant in hosting a fun and successful party. Please provide us with your feedback on the usefulness of the kit's contents:

1. Please rate the usefulness of the following items by circling the appropriate number:

	Very Useful				Not Useful
Host Guide	5	4	3	2	1
Sample Script	5	4	3	2	1
Making the Ask	5	4	3	2	1
Party Ideas	5	4	3	2	1
Party Guest Tracking Sheet	5	4	3	2	1

Comments on improvements to the items above:

2. Please rate the quality of the following items by circling the appropriate number:

	Very Good				Poor
Invitations	5	4	3	2	1
Thank You Notes	5	4	3	2	1

Comments on improvements you would like to see:

3. What additional items in the House Party Kit would have been useful to you?

Thank you again,

YPQ youth, board and staff



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Post Party Wrap Up

A friendly reminder to use the enclosed self-addressed envelope to mail the following items to Youth Pride, Inc. It would be greatly appreciated if you could mail these items within the week following your party.

- Donation checks made payable to Youth Pride Inc. or YPI
- Completed Guest Tracking Sheets
- Completed House Party Kit Requests from any of your guests wishing to host a party
- House Party Kit Evaluation Form
- Please contact me at _____ (phone number) to arrange a pick up of any unused items in the House Party Kit.
 - These items may include:
 - Brochures or other hand outs
 - Invitations/Thank you notes
 - House Party Kit container

Thank you again for your support of Youth Pride, Inc.