

Summer Garden Party

Hosting a garden party is a great way to spend time with friends and family, enjoy the sunshine, and raise awareness of MRF!

What you'll need

- An outdoor space for the party
- Decorations - streamers, balloons, fairy lights...
- Food and drink
- Tables and chairs, or bean bags
- MRF cardboard collection boxes
- Prizes for games/activities



Getting ready for the event

- Pick a date - The date of your garden party could coincide with a calendar event. For instance the 4th of July, the Wimbledon tennis finals, or the summer solstice.
- Select a venue - If your garden isn't big enough, ask a friend or family member if you can hold the event at theirs. You could also contact local schools or businesses with large outdoor areas to see if you can hold your summer party there. Make sure that you pick a location that will accommodate the number of people you plan on attending.
- Fundraising - Sell tickets for a set price or charge people for food and drink. You could also run other activities to boost your fundraising, for instance holding a raffle, tombola or even offer a face-painting service. Ask your local garden centre if they can donate plants or seeds for you to sell on the day. You'll be surprised by how many services and people will be willing to help you out when you tell them why you are fundraising
- Advertising your event - Make posters to put up in your local area or send them to your friends and family to help distribute. Set up a Facebook event, invite all your friends and ask them to share it.

Selina raised £1,300 at her Summer Garden Party!

- Selina Stroud, Kilimanjaro

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On the day

- Decorate your garden - put up Meningitis Research Foundation materials, balloons, fairy lights etc. Prepare the food and drinks for your guests, and set up tables and chairs.
- Welcome your guests, let them know why you are fundraising for MRF, and remember to take lots of photos to share on social media!

Top tips

- Hide champagne corks around the garden and then give the lucky finder a bottle of bubbly as a fun activity.
- If you want to do a garden party on a smaller scale, then hold a picnic in your local park instead. Get everyone to bring food, provide some cakes and refreshments and ask everyone to give a donation.
- Having a collection box for guests to add donations to is also another great way to get a bit of extra cash on the day.
- Ask any friends or family who were unable to attend to make a donation to your fundraising page instead.

The important bits

- Be sure to keep your food fresh and hygienic by using rubber gloves to handle them
- If you plan on serving alcohol at your event then you may need a licence, and always ensure that alcohol is only given to guests over the age of 18
- Keep the money you raise safe and pay it in to MRF as soon as you can

**For more information contact
fundraising@meningitis.org**



"It was a fantastic day and I am so grateful for everyone's support!"

- Alexandra Perrin, London Marathon

www.meningitis.org