



# Dinners for 12 Strangers



- Engage alumni, parents, and volunteers to host a dinner for 12 HOBY alumni, parents, and volunteers.
- Provide an opportunity for HOBY alumni and volunteers to reminisce about their HOBY experience.
- Network with local HOBY alumni and volunteers

**47 year tradition at UCLA. In 2015, alumni hosted more than 350 dinners around the world involving more than 3,700 Bruins.**



# I'm interested...now what?

- Contact Megan Glynn ([glynnm@hoby.org](mailto:glynnm@hoby.org)) with the following details:
  - Event Date
  - Event Location
  - Ideal # of Guests
- HOBY will assist by:
  - Providing targeted outreach to the HOBY network in your area
  - Managing event registrations
- Two weeks prior:
  - HOBY will provide the confirmed registration list to the host
  - HOBY will provide templates for suggested host communications with participants





## CONSIDER A THEME

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Every party has a theme. While Dinners for 12 Strangers is a theme on its own, many HOBY alumni and volunteers are taking their dinners one step further, giving a second theme to the HOBY gathering.

The D12 dinners give HOBY alumni and volunteers the chance to unite for a fantastic dinner, whether home-cooked or picked up at a local store. (Not being able to cook isn't an excuse!) As some dinner hosts have found, theme dinners can help the group feel more relaxed while meeting fellow alumni and volunteers in an informal setting.

There are several ways to spin a themed dinner. General themes, ethnic food themes, and career interest themes are the most common takes on the dinners.

## PLAY AN ICEBREAKER GAME

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### **“Two Truths and One Lie”**

Each person takes a turn at introducing him/herself and then tells the rest of the guests three “facts” about themselves. Two of them are true and the third is a lie. The guests have to guess which “fact” is a lie.

### **“I Want to Know”**

Ask each guest to write down a question that they would like someone else to answer. The questions should be the type that would provide insight about an individual's personality, tastes, values, etc. The host collects the questions and puts them in a container that is passed around the

room. Then, as each guest introduces him/herself, s/he pulls a question out of the container that s/he has to answer.

*Example*

- *When and where did you attend your HOBY seminar?*
- *What was your most memorable HOBY experience?*
- *Have you ever had a brush with a celebrity?*
- *Have you ever been on TV?*
- *If you could go back in time and make one decision differently, what would it be?*
- *If you could have lunch with anybody, living or dead, real or imaginary, who would it be?*
- *If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do?*

**“Celebrity”**

*This game can be played after dinner if time allows.* Using scraps of paper, each individual writes down the names of 10-15 well-known figures. The assortment of names is put in a container.

The group is then divided into two teams. The first team selects one of their members to take a turn. S/he picks a piece of paper out of the container and tries to make his/her teammates guess the identity of the person whose name is on the paper. When his/her teammates have guessed correctly, s/he picks another piece of paper, describes the person, the other teammates make their guesses, and the process continues until a minute has elapsed.

At that point, the number of people that have been identified by the team equals the number of points the team earns. The second team then selects a teammate to take his/her turn, until all the players on both teams have had one time “at bat.” The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

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# DINNER THEMES

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## **General Themes:**

Beach Barbeque – If the beach is your place, dip into your stock of chips and salsa, soda, and hot dogs, burgers and watermelon to plan the perfect in-home bash.

Cabin Fever – Get your fireplace blazing and break out a few blankets and pillows to sit on, then curl up with hot cocoa, a cup of soup and other comfort food.

Take-Out – No cooking or dishwashing required; just order from your favorite pizza, Chinese and Mexican food joints.

Happy Hour – If you want a relaxed atmosphere, this may be the way to go. Just serve anything deep fried, accompanied by chips and root beer.

“Survivor” Party – Hold contests for food. Last one eating is the winner.

## **Ethnic Food Themes:**

Hawaiian Luau – Ask students to wear their favorite Hawaiian shirts or bring straw hats and leis. If roasted pig isn't your thing, try grilled fish.

Patriotic – Break out your flags and serve all-American food.

Pizza Parlor – Set up a red-checkered tablecloth and serve Italian food.

## **Career Interest Themes:**

Pre-Med – Make sure guests “scrub in” well before eating. Set utensils out on a tray, and serve food you wouldn't find at a hospital.

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Music Industry – Ask students to bring their favorite CDs, and take advantage of your own collection. Or, make it a combined dinner with music, communications and law students, and have a discussion on music downloading.

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## OTHER DETAILS

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- Dinners usually last two to three hours.
- We LOVE photos! Please take pictures and e-mail them to [D12@hoby.org](mailto:D12@hoby.org)
- Your guests will come dressed in a wide range of attire, from “business casual” to “HOBY wear.”
- Most hosts hold a short “social hour” before dinner. This enables guests to meet one another while waiting for everyone to arrive. Beverages and hors d’oeuvres (cheese and crackers, vegetable dip, etc.) are usually served.
- Although you may prepare a gourmet meal if you choose, a simple, buffet-style dinner will be equally appreciated.
- Don’t worry if you don’t have a table large enough to accommodate your guests. At many dinners, guests sit on chairs in the living room and balance their plates on their laps.