



OREGON WILD

How to Throw an Oregon Wild House Party

Who?

YOU! Oregon Wild needs your help to fund our important conservation campaigns. Consider hosting an informal gathering of your friends, neighbors, family or coworkers to help us raise funds. A host is responsible for making the pitch for support- explaining to their guests why they support Oregon Wild and then asking their guests to do the same. The host should therefore be an Oregon Wild member, as a pitch is most successful unless when made by someone who is also investing in the organization's work. Besides this, the host and any co-host(s) take on the usual party planning responsibilities: pick a date, invite friends, prepare refreshments, plan the event, and enjoy the party.

What is a house party?

House parties are informal fundraisers organized by supporters who want to help raise money for Oregon Wild. We have a goal of generating a minimum of \$1,000 at each house party through a pitch for support made by the party's host.

Oregon Wild will supply the host with newsletters, organizational marketing materials, books, sign-in sheets, donation envelopes, etc., as well as a 10-minute DVD for screening at the house party that outlines why old-growth forests are important and what Oregon Wild is doing to protect them.

Where is it held?

A house party can be held anywhere of your choosing. Most people, however, choose to host in their own homes.

When?

You may host a house party whenever you like, but keep in mind that Oregon Wild staffers have limited availability to attend. We will attempt to send a staffer or representative to make a presentation about the organization and coach the host to make the perfect pitch.

Why throw a house party for Oregon Wild?

- To raise critical support for Oregon Wild's conservation programs and day-to-day operations
- To help us reach new people who care about protecting what makes Oregon special
- To participate in the dynamic conservation community in Oregon
- To promote Oregon's oldest and largest conservation group

Beyond raising funds and having the opportunity to meet a new group of potential supporters of our work, house parties are a great way to foster community connection. By throwing a party for us, you and your guests are supporting the mission of Oregon Wild: to protect Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy. You and your guests will have the opportunity to help us to keep Oregon a special place to live, work, and play.

How to Throw a Wild House Party

1. Pick a date: Once you've settled on a date, confirm it with our Development Coordinator at (503) 283-6343 ext. 224 or jj@oregonwild.org
2. Draft a guest list: Invite your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and members of groups you're involved with. Recruit co-hosts to help you spread the word and invite their contacts.
3. Plan your party: Think about details like: easy directions to your home or the party location; clearly indicating your house for the day of the party; where your guests will park; where in your home is the most comfortable to accommodate the group; providing enough seats; where food and drink will be located; etc. Maybe consider a theme to encourage attendance and fun!

Make it clear that fundraising for Oregon Wild is the main priority of the party.

Food and drink is up to you, but food that can be eaten while standing is best. Finger

foods that don't require utensils like hors d'oeuvres, cheese and crackers, veggies, cookies and brownies work well.

4. Send invitations: Use Evite.com or Party4aPurpose.com instead of paper to save trees and time! Please use the following text, whether you send digital or paper invitations:

Party title: Let's get Wild! Oregon Wild Fundraising House Party

Text: Please join me to learn more about and raise funds for the important conservation campaigns of Oregon's oldest and largest state-based conservation group. Bring your checkbooks and help to keep Oregon a special place!

It is important to use this text so that it is clear to your invitees that this is a fundraising event for Oregon Wild. If you want, you can provide a link to our website. Let us know if you'd like a digital image of our logo to add to your invitation. Include date, time, location, directions, your own message, and any other additional information about your party (theme, what will be served, etc.). Consider asking each guest to bring a guest!

5. Reminders: Make follow-up phone calls and send Evite.com or Party4aPurpose.com reminders to invitees who haven't responded.
6. Make a pitch: Everything at the house party should be built around the request for donations. Time the pitch about one hour into the party to make sure everyone is present when it happens. The host should call for everyone's attention, introduce him or herself, and welcome everyone. If there is a presentation, the host introduces the presenter. After the presentation, the host should make the pitch. A pitch must be made. It's the main reason for having the house party!

Enjoy your party!

For more information contact Jonathan Jelen, (503) 283-6343 ext. 224 or jj@oregonwild.org

