



# THROW A LABOR DAY COMMUNITY BARBECUE

Throwing a Labor Day Community Barbecue can be a fantastic way to bring neighbors together and celebrate the holiday. Not only does it bring the community together with good food and people, but it creates great memories as well!

## Here's a step-by-step guide to help you plan and execute a successful Labor Day Community Barbecue

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- 2 Choose a Location
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## SET A DATE AND TIME

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Choose a date and time that works well for the community, considering that Labor Day is typically observed on the first Monday in September. Decide if you want to host the event during the day or in the evening. Because it's a split bunch of who is working and residents who are observing the day off, it may be a good idea to do a quick survey to the community to help select the best date and time for the event.

## CHOOSE A LOCATION

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Select a suitable location for the barbecue. This could be a community park, a common area, or even a backyard within the neighborhood. Ensure the location you choose is able to hold a larger quantity of people and has enough space for grilling and other activities while the food is being cooked.

## RESERVE THE COMMUNITY PARK / RAMADA

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If you select to have this event in the community park, make sure you reserve it ahead of time. If there is already a birthday party booked at that time/day, you may want to reconsider and make sure your event doesn't overlap with someone else's special day. Connect with the HOA board or property management company to reserve and make sure insurance or permits are not required. You may also be able to use the community grills if they're present.

## ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

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Head over to the community bulletin board or Facebook group, inform the group that you're planning a Labor Day Community Barbecue and would love to have some help. There may be master grillers, DJ's, or event planners living in the community who would love to get involved.





## PLAN THE MENU

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Decide on the barbecue menu. Include a variety of options like burgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, and vegetarian alternatives. Consider asking community members to bring side dishes and desserts potluck-style. Your volunteers may also be able to bring items and encourage their neighbors to do the same. Make sure you're clear about the residents and also the park rules with alcoholic beverages ahead of time.

Take into account dietary restrictions and preferences when planning the menu. Label dishes with common allergens to ensure everyone can enjoy the food safely.

## PLAN ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Consider organizing activities for both children and adults. This could include games, a bounce house for kids, or even a live band or DJ for entertainment. Encouraging a pick-up soccer, basketball, or football game will allow many of the children attending to enjoy the outdoor event instead of wanting to get back to video games on their day off.

## PLAN FOR ADVERSE WEATHER

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Within the days leading up to the event, keep an eye on the weather forecast and make sure you have a backup plan in case of rain or extreme weather conditions.

## DECORATE

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Decorate the barbecue area with patriotic colors to enhance the Labor Day theme. Use red, white, and blue decorations, banners, and tablecloths to create a festive atmosphere. Bring swag to giveaway to parents and children that support the holiday so they can take something home to remember and continue to get involved with your events.





## SET UP SEATING AND EATING AREAS

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Arrange seating areas with picnic tables, blankets, and chairs. Ensure there's enough space for everyone to relax and enjoy their meals comfortably. Volunteers may have pop-up tables they can bring as well. Also, consider setting up a drink station with coolers filled with ice.

## SAFETY MEASURES

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Implement safety measures, including first aid stations and clear guidelines for the use of grills and other equipment. Because there is fire involved and you may be using a grill that wasn't properly cleaned after the last use, make sure you have a fire extinguisher handy just in case. To keep the community clean, it's always good to have a designated area for trash disposal and recycling to maintain cleanliness.

## PROMOTE THE EVENT

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Utilize various channels to promote the Labor Day Community Barbecue, such as community bulletin boards, social media, and newsletters. Create visually appealing promotional materials to generate excitement and encourage residents to share with their local friends and family members.

## CAPTURE THE MOMENT

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Have one of your volunteers taking photos and videos from start to finish. If anyone within the community has a drone, getting flyover footage will be an amazing way to capture the moment and share the photos and videos afterwards.

## LEAN INTO COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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Use the barbecue as an opportunity to foster community connections. Set up community boards or information tables to share upcoming events, initiatives, or neighborhood news. If you're promoting your business, have a pop-up and a table setup with an activity like a spinning wheel for kids to take home swag from your company.

## POST-EVENT CLEANUP

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Plan for an efficient post-event cleanup. Enlist your volunteers to help clean up the venue and dispose of trash properly. We want to keep the community clean and also have more events in the near future!

## SHARE YOUR EVENT PHOTOS/VIDEOS

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Head over to your personal social media channels and post up the photos and videos, make sure you tag the residents and community members that attended, as well as the producing company. Make sure you gather feedback from the attendees and also give a special thanks to all volunteers, sponsors, and anyone who contributed to the success of the Community Labor Day Barbecue, acknowledge their efforts and express gratitude for their support.

By following these steps, you can create a festive and enjoyable Community Labor Day Barbecue that strengthens the sense of community and provides a memorable experience for everyone involved.

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Check out [HOA.com/impact](https://hoa.com/impact) to start activating the communities you serve.

