



Seed to Salad: Salad Party

Time to celebrate! After weeks of planning and then tending to your gardens, it's important to have a good time during the harvest with a party. Here is another opportunity to involve the youth in decision-making—in this case, planning the salad party. You may only need to gather bowls, utensils, and salad dressing for a great harvest party.



Keep in mind

- Similar to planning an assembly, begin with questions to find out what interests the students.
- Don't dismiss any ideas.
- Collect all ideas in a brainstorming session and then return to them to see what is feasible and how you plan to make things happen.
- If you have extra money set aside for this part of the program, consider sharing the amount with the youth in the group so they can help inform how that money will be spent.

Questions to consider

- Where will we have our salad party?
- How long will the party last? How long will it take to harvest, wash, and prepare the salad? How long would we like to eat and hang out?
- Who should be invited to the salad party? Is it just for youth that grew the gardens or do we want to include others?
- If we are inviting others how should we do so?
- What supplies do we need? Who will get them?
- What is our budget? How will we spend it?
- What would we like to do besides harvest and eat at the salad party?
- What name would we like to give the party?



Salad parties come in all shapes and sizes. The three case studies below describe three different parties, two held in a school program and one held in an after school program at the Ithaca Children's Garden.

Salad Party Examples

West Village 4-H at the Ithaca Children's Garden

Youth in the West Village 4-H Club started their Salad Garden project in late April. They meet everyday after school at West Village, which is about 10 minute walk from the Ithaca Children's Garden. One afternoon each week, they spent an hour at the Garden working on the salad gardens they had designed and planted.



West Village 4-H at the Ithaca Children's Garden (continued)

Their program was designed to finish the second week in June. The first week in June, after watering and weeding tasks were complete, the group planned a salad party for the following week. The youth invited their families and made invitations to take home.

A vote decided what two types of salad dressings would be available. Although most of the vegetables were growing well, the carrots were still too small to eat. The group asked if they could have extra carrots from the grocery store to supplement. A vote was also taken to decide what beverages would be available.

The following week, youth arrived, some with parents and siblings joining them. Each youth harvested about half of their salad garden, washed and dried the greens and vegetables and helped prepare a communal salad. While everyone ate salad we shared our favorite part of the salad garden project. Once finished, youth were supplied with bags to harvest the remainder of their plots to take home and share with their families.

Northeast Elementary All-School Salad Party

Although only twenty students were active in the "garden club" that met several times each week for the Seed to Salad program, the whole school was aware of the project. The garden plots were located along the path from the school to the playground and students had a chance to observe the gardens changing over the course of the spring.

Both the school and the students were interested in a Salad Party that would involve the entire school. We realized that what was growing in the small plots would not feed over 400 people. With the help of a teacher, donation requests were sent to a local hydroponic lettuce producer and two local grocery stores. The response was tremendous: 10 cases of lettuce and enough gift certificates to provide the entire school with salad.

Youth active in the garden club brainstormed a list of supplies and teachers purchased them.

Since it was difficult to find a time when all grade levels would be at school at the same time, the principal suggested we take the Salad Party on the road and stage the party at the all-school field trip to a local pool.

Set up under a series of awnings from 11am-1pm, students active in the garden club took shifts serving salad to nearly every student, parent, and teacher at the pool. Several students came back for second and third helpings.

Northeast Elementary Garden Club

Fueled from the success of the all-school salad party, youth active in the garden club were eager to celebrate the harvest as a group. The day after the all-school party, the garden club met during an extended lunch and recess period to harvest, wash, and prepare salad from their plots at the school. Then, they celebrated!



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