

Tips for Hosting Fun Virtual Celebrations



We understand that in past years, our colleagues and their families have enjoyed coming together to celebrate the holiday season. This year will feel different, but we want to prioritize the safety of our team members and their loved ones. **Eating together is a high-risk activity**, so this year we encourage you to consider virtual gatherings. Below are some alternative ideas for your virtual holiday celebrations. These events everyone to relax and reconnect while celebrating safely.

Host virtual holiday trivia

A quick round of trivia is familiar, refreshing way to encourage interaction during your virtual party. Pick a host and divide the group into breakout rooms to establish your teams – Zoom can do this automatically. Send out the questions either via email or the chat function, establish a time limit and allow teams to chat in their answers. Once the points have been tallied, announce and award the winner.

Send goodie boxes and food

Send everyone on the call a goodie box the week before the virtual party. Consider including these items: Hot cocoa mix; A mug; Cookies, candy, or other snacks; Fun holiday accessories like headbands, hats, and sunglasses; Holiday activities such as puzzles, crafts or games; Photo props for a video call “photo booth” shoot; Stationary; Gift cards for online subscription services. If sharing food is important to your group, you can order individually boxed meals to be shared virtually while playing one of the games or listening to the holiday play list.

Host a holiday costume contest

Everyone can get in the holiday spirit by attending a virtual party in seasonal garb. You can kick the experience up a notch by hosting a costume contest and offering a prize to the winner.

Create a holiday playlist

Invite everyone to add favorite holiday carols to a playlist using a service like Spotify. Play the songs during your video call. You can also ask attendees to guess who added which song, or invite people to talk about why that song is their favorite.

Host holiday bingo

Create your own Bingo board. Check on the next page for an example Bingo board. You can customize a game board for your team by adding inside jokes, references to specific team members, etc. A player gets a point when they learn information from another participant that applies to the Bingo board. Award prizes! Even a \$5 gift card raises the stakes from bragging rights. Provide enough time to play. For example, you may want the game to span an entire week so your people have more opportunities to connect.

Participate in a local food drive

The holidays are a time for giving, and that includes giving back to those less fortunate. Hold a food drive and announce the total amount of goods donated during your virtual celebration.

Virtual Holiday Party Bingo

Rules for playing virtual Bingo:

- Distribute the Bingo board to everyone joining the virtual celebration.
- Decide on a timeline, which could range from a single video call through a month or longer.
 - If you settle on hosting Bingo during a single, large conference call, break out into groups for easier conversation.
- Players get a point when they learn information from another attendee that applies to the Bingo board. Players should mark off each square they complete. The center square is a free point.
- Award prizes for the first player to complete challenges like an entire row or an entire board.

| B | I | N | G | O |
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| Birthday in December | Celebrates Hanukkah | Has not finished holiday shopping | Supported a charity this month | Has a stocking in the background |
| Put up holiday lights outside their house | Owns an ugly holiday sweater | Has more than one tree in their house | Made plans for New Year's Eve | Knows a great holiday pun |
| Loves classic holiday movies | Built a gingerbread house | | Likes eggnog | Snoops for presents |
| Already made a New Year's Resolution | Shared a favorite holiday memory | Has a favorite holiday tradition | Has regifted a present | Shops on Black Friday |
| Has an Elf on the Shelf | Baked and decorated holiday cookies | Celebrates Kwanzaa | Self-identifies as a scrooge | Watched a Hallmark holiday movie |