

## Party Registration Party Smart Tips

---

Thank you for participating in the Party Registration program! We hope that you have a fun and safe party. Below please find important tips for hosting a responsible party. These tips are not meant to be all inclusive; always remember that when hosting a gathering you are assuming responsibility for any and all issues that may take place. Please refer back to the *Party Registration Program* document for program rules.

*Please remember to share this information with anyone involved in helping to host the party!*

---

### Party Smart Tips:

- 1. Discuss party expectations** with your roommates before you host a gathering. Things to consider include: date, timeframe, house rules, how many people to have over, what you will provide guests, who will be the sober host, who will chat with the neighbors, etc.
- 2. Notify your neighbors in advance** and provide them with the phone number of the sober host.
- 3. Designate a sober host** to control music volume, access to the party, outside disturbances, and to address any interactions with the neighbors or police. Neighbors typically report that it's the behaviors of people coming and going (including parking issues) to the party that they find most disruptive, not the party itself. Make sure the sober host is monitoring the foot traffic to and from the party, and don't forget to check the backyard. Encourage your guests to be quiet and respectful before they come and when they leave.
- 4. Think before you post!** We strongly advise you not to post your party using social media outlets. Whether you are inviting 20 of your closest friends or extending an open invite to the community, your message is out there, being shared by more people than you think, and they are all headed to your gathering. Simply put, what you put out on social media cannot be taken back. Posting your get-together using social media can lead to out-of-control parties, unwanted guests (are you really comfortable with complete strangers in your home?) and their unwanted behaviors, and more guests than your gathering can accommodate without unwanted consequences. Remember, as a party host you are responsible for what happens at and as a result of your party, including the actions of others.
- 5. Unreasonable Noise/ Nuisance Gathering...Know the Difference:** It's important to remember that the \*Party Registration\* program only provides a potential warning for unreasonable noise. Anything outside of noise - fights, fireworks, nuisance gatherings, etc. are NOT covered!  
So, what is a nuisance gathering anyway? Nuisance gatherings cover issues that extend past the property line - think foot traffic to and from your gathering, where people are disrupting the neighbors - leaving trash in yards, trampling bushes, jumping fences and breaking them, etc. The HOST of the party, if found responsible for a nuisance gathering, can be held accountable for the costs associated with these damages - including any overtime needed (police, ambulance, etc.). Any cost for damages and clean up could be charged on top of the citation fine received.  
**Remember that YOU are responsible for your guests' actions!**

6. **Engaging in a riot** can have long term consequences. State Riot Laws provide that anyone convicted of a rioting offense cannot attend any state funded institution for a period of one year. CSU students take note: engaging in a riot – or even just being a bystander and watching it – can get you into trouble. Having a role in a riot can mean automatic suspension from all state supported universities – including CSU – for 12 months if convicted – and your tuition is NOT refunded.
7. **Social Host Ordinance** holds host(s) responsible for providing a space in which underage possession/consumption of alcohol or marijuana is occurring. The host(s) do(es) not have to provide the alcohol/marijuana to be held responsible. A Social Host Ordinance violation is a civil (non-criminal) infraction that has a \$100+ fine. The Social Host Ordinance does not replace current city ordinances (such as Unreasonable Noise and Nuisance Gathering) and it is possible for a party host to be issued multiple citations.
8. **Do not provide alcohol to minors.** If the minor is over 18 but under 21, the crime is a misdemeanor with penalties of up to 18 months in prison and a \$5,000 fine. If the guest is under age 18, it's worse: the crime is a felony punishable by up to six years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. If you're in doubt of someone's age, protect yourself and don't serve.
9. **Do not provide Marijuana to minors.** If you are 21, **Colorado law permits** you to use recreational marijuana within a private residence.

**It is NOT legal to:**

- consume marijuana in public.
- sell or transfer marijuana to persons under the age of 21.
- drive under the influence of marijuana.

The use and possession of marijuana is **prohibited** on all CSU property, regardless of your age.

10. **Keep the size reasonable** so your party stays in line with the capacity of your residence and to avoid disturbing your neighbors. Have a guest list! Remember that unwanted guests do not know you or care if you receive a ticket.
11. **Be proactive by asking for help.** If you're uncomfortable with the size of your party or people will not leave despite your requests, call Fort Collins Police Services' dispatch non-emergency number **(970) 221-6540 ext. 2** and ask for assistance in breaking up your party prior to things getting out of control.
12. **Be cooperative** towards neighbors, police, and others who come to discuss issues. Don't make the situation or citation worse. When police arrive, all guests need to leave. And remember these helpful tips when interacting with police (*these TIPS are not meant as legal advice, just helpful hints*):
  - The sober host is the best person to answer the door in case of a police visit.
  - Answer the door promptly, as no one likes to be left waiting.
  - Keep your Party Registration form close at hand for officers to reference. Having that piece of paper does not guarantee a warning but may help in the process.
  - Keep your information to the point as the officers have other calls to respond to.
  - And remember that please and thank you go a long way with anyone.
13. **Clean up all trash** resulting from your party and **follow up with your neighbors the next day.** Your neighbors may be more tolerant of your next party if they see that you care about how things went for them and that you are respecting the neighborhood.