

Article For Better Media

Susan Evani 10/10/16

A Hollywood Awards Party For Your Non-Profit Volunteers

Volunteers are a valuable part of a non-profit organization's success. What better way to show your gratitude for their dedicated service than with a festive party! While many non-profits are short on staff and free time, with the help of your board, you'll be able to put together a quality theme party in no time. Also, consider reaching out to your more generous donors for donations.

Pick a theme

The concept could be relevant to your organization, the time of year, or something arbitrary that you think is fun and festive. An interesting idea detailed here is a **Hollywood Movie Awards Party**.

Set The Date

First, check your organization's calendar to find a time that will fit around your fundraisers and community events. You should schedule your date at least a month in advance so that your invitees can plan accordingly.

Secure The Venue

Depending on the size your office and the number of volunteers, you could hold the party at your org's location. If this is not possible, reach out to board members who will most likely have a venue or even their house that they could donate for your event.

Create An Email Invitation

Send an email instead of mailing an invitation to save money. Consider using a free program like [Evite](#) where your guests can RSVP on the website.

Or use a template in Word and email through your organization's server. Make sure you have your guests RSVP a week before, so you have enough time to plan for food and gifts.

Decorations On A Budget

Of course, as a non-profit you have a limited budget to spend on a party for your volunteers. It's best to put your money into food and gifts and DIY when it comes to decor.

Staff members could collect old DVD covers and magazines that feature movie stars, like [People](#) and [Entertainment Weekly](#). Using craft scissors to cut out the pictures produces striking scalloped edges. For an extra dash of sparkle, decorate with glitter. Depending on the size of your party area, you may hang the pictures solo all over the walls, put several together in a collage, hang from the ceiling with silver and gold cord ribbon, or fashion into table tents.

You should choose a rich color scheme to like gold and black or red and silver and accentuate your venue with balloons, streamers, and even glittery confetti.

Food

Light appetizers and finger foods are a captivating way to feed your crowd. Consider a mix of raw vegetables and savory comfort food bites. Add sweet mini cupcakes for dessert plus a festive punch for extra appeal.

A Sample Menu

Crudité

Petite Caprese-(cherry tomatoes secured to small mozzarella balls with shimmer or star food picks)

Two Bite Savory Scones

Mini Crab Cakes

Mac N' Cheese Bites

Mini Red Velvet Cupcakes

Easy Party Punch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)

You'll find recipes and other ideas [here](#).

Games/Activities

Ballot Box Raffle

When each guest enters, hand them a piece of paper that they can tear in half. On one-half, they'll write their name and "stuff the ballot box" for a raffle at the end of the night. You can fashion a ballot box out of any standard size shoe box that you wrap in a shiny wrapping paper and make a slit at the top.

The second piece of paper will contain a [movie quote for the icebreaker activity](#).

Movie Quotes Icebreaker

Depending on the size and function of your organization, not all the volunteers will be acquainted with each other. This activity can serve as an icebreaker as well as entertainment.

Shortly after everyone has had a chance to grab a drink and some food, gather the group together. Ask a staff or board member to read a movie quote first to demonstrate the activity. Each guest will announce their name, give a quick introduction about themselves, and then read their quote.

The rest of the group will raise their hand if they know the answer.

Have several staff and board members moderating to watch for the first person to raise their hand. Designate a score keeper too. A large easel and a poster board size paper with the names of the attendees written on it will make it easy to keep score.

You can decide how you want to award the winner of each question, depending on the size of your group and how much time you want to spend.

For example, you can award one point each for answers that are either the movie, the character, the actor/actress, the movie release date, or a combination of all. You can decide how many times the crowd is allowed to guess the answer.

Depending on your budget you can offer a just a grand prize or perhaps first, second, and third place winners. Prizes could include movie theater tickets, iTunes gift cards, or a DVD movie set.

Paparazzi Pictures

While photo booths are all the rage unless you can get the service donated, have several members of the staff or board roam around and take candid pictures using flash cameras "paparazzi style." You could gather donated boas, costume jewelry, fancy hats, sunglasses, and more for fun, posed photos.

Volunteer Award Ceremony

An "Awards" ceremony with a parting gift to thank each volunteer for their service is a finishing touch to the evening. Staff and board members can collaborate on putting together a winning basket of movie themed items like trivia books, DVDs, movie passes, and assorted movie munchies. You may also announce the winner of the Ballot Box Raffle, with a prize that is similar to the Movie Quote Icebreaker.