

# FAMILY NERF NIGHT



## EVENT PLANNING



## Family Nerf Night - Community Outreach Kit

### Kit Includes:

- 24 Nerf Blasters (several spare blasters included in case of failure)
- 1 tote full of Nerf Darts
- 35 Safety Glasses

This kit is provided for free to all Southern Missouri Assembly of God Churches by the KIDMIN Department of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network. It is made possible through BGMC funds given by SOMO churches.

Our prayer is that this kit equips you with a valuable tool to spread the hope of the Gospel in your community, just as BGMC equips missionaries to share the Gospel around the world.

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## Creating a Family Nerf Night Event

### Step 1: Planning Your Event

#### Things to Consider

- **Space**
  - Requires an indoor area large enough for at least 24 people to run and play.
  - Ideally, it should provide an observation area for spectators.
- **Volunteers**
  - At a minimum, you'll need:
    - 1 person to operate as "Game Master"
    - 1 person to act as "Referee"
    - 1 Equipment Manager
    - 2 Field Reset Assistants (dart collectors)
    - Additional volunteers for greeting, hosting, food service, etc.
- **Timing**
  - Schedule your event at a time that maximizes attendance from your community as well as support from your church.
  - Look at your community calendars searching for potential conflict with other events such as holidays, sports seasons, other church events (both from your church and surrounding churches) or local community events.
- **Expenses**

- While the kit provides core essentials, additional expenses may include:
    - Food (e.g., "Nerf & Nachos")
    - Advertising (flyers, social media boosts)
    - Prizes
    - Cleanup costs (e.g., cleaning supplies, janitorial staff)
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## Step 2: Preparing for the Event

### Plan

- Define the **who, why, what, and how** of the event:
  - Who do you want to reach?
  - Why is this outreach important for you to reach them?
  - What message are you sharing, and how will you communicate it?
  - Ask yourself: "What does success look like?"
    - Understanding your goals helps you and your team stay on track during planning and helps you know if you had a successful event.

### Advertise

- Effective advertising should be **clear, shareable, and frequent**.
- Use:
  - Handouts with QR codes for easy access to details and sign-ups.
  - Social media (local community pages, short video reels - a great way to get teens involved, and personal shares).
  - Community bulletin boards around town.
  - Business card-sized invites for congregation members to distribute.

### Sign-Ups

- Online registration helps you know how many to plan for.
- On your form's intro page, be sure to list all important information about your event.
  - Include date, time, and location
  - Also consider other ideas like:
    - At least 1 parent/guardian must stay present at the event.
    - Participants need to be at least \_\_\_ years old.
    - A Disclaimer
      - Describe the event and remind people accidents can happen and by signing up, they take responsibility by attending.
    - Are personal Nerf Blasters permitted?
      - If you choose to allow it, set rules such as:
        - Only "Standard Sized" dart blasters.
        - Use only event darts, leave personal darts at home.

- We are not responsible for lost or damaged blasters.
  - Jotform.com is a great place to create online forms.
    - Only collect information you will use.
      - Some possible ideas would include:
        - Parent's Name(s)
        - Email address
        - Phone # for emergency contact
        - Children's Names / Ages
      - Less standard but useful questions:
        - Would you like to receive emailed information about our church and/or future events?
        - Would you like to receive a call from our pastor?
          - If yes, what's a good time of day to call?

## Recruit Volunteers

- Start early.
- Consider offering a range of opportunities for the WHOLE church to serve in.
  - Build demographically specific opportunities within the event to open your Kids Ministry to a greater range of people.
    - For example:
      - Preschoolers: Dart pick-up races.
      - Youth: Team Captains.... or mascots (HA!).
      - Seniors: Create and manage a target practice range.
      - Men's Ministry: Battlefield design.
      - Women's Ministry: Band Aid & Boo-Boo Station.
- Try using events as an opportunity to showcase "volunteerism" in your children's ministry. This can change and form opinions on:
  - What kids ministry is.
  - What it looks like in your church.
  - What it can accomplish for your community.
  - It also helps people visualize themselves in a KIDMIN role.
- Ways to create an excellent volunteer experience:
  - Make every role meaningful by clearly communicating the vision for the event.
    - Communicate the purpose of every role to that vision.
- Overcommunicate
  - Text Reminders, Emails, Public Announcements
  - Once someone signs up, make sure they understand:
    - When
      - What day is the event?
      - What time am I expected to arrive?
    - What time will I be allowed to leave? (honor this)
    - Where
      - Where is the event?
      - Where will I be posted during the event?

- Where should I go when I arrive?
  - What
    - What will they be doing?
      - Provide short bullet point descriptions.
      - Include extras that may not be “Role Specific”.
      - Example: Upon event completion, you will join a specific church reset/event clean up team.
        - team is \_\_\_\_\_
        - Report to \_\_\_\_\_
        - Located at \_\_\_\_\_
- Create a culture that honors volunteers
  - Personally thank and be excited:
    - when people sign up.
    - in front of your church.
    - at the event, in front of everyone.
    - after the event.
  - Pay attention to people that stay late to make sure you and the church are taken care of. These people are special, and you don’t want to miss them.

### Step 3: Hosting the Event

- What does a Nerf Game look like?
  - Many think Nerf is simply “Every Man for Himself” shooting darts at each other.... and it can be, but it can be so much more! We’ve provided a variety of team games for you to utilize to carry the time and organize the event.
- Setting up the Field of Play
  - Use church items creatively to build barriers and battle zones.
    - Overturned trash cans
    - Stacks of large Amazon boxes
    - Totes from your closet
    - Folding tables put on their sides
    - The old couch in the youth room
  - Create a field that’s random and interesting
    - Give the opportunity to develop different strategies dependent on what side you’re playing from.
    - Let teams switch sides to vary their experience.
    - Get creative but keep it safe.
    - Set dart reload buckets in challenging places throughout the play area.
  - **PRO TIP: Sweep/Mop the floor well before the event. Then use a CLEAN broom to sweep up darts between rounds.**
- Team Up:
  - As people arrive, break the group up into teams.

- Friends and families will want to be together, and that's ok. Try to keep the teams as even as possible in both number, age, and skill range.
- Preselect families as "Captains" to welcome new members to their team.
- Teams will need 10-12 members.
- You can have as many teams as necessary. Games move quickly and tournaments scale to accommodate.
- Encourage teams to come up with fun names to help identify and call them up for their turn.
- There are lots of apps and online tournament bracket generators you can use to keep track of game progress.

## Game Play

- The Games
  - Quickly and clearly share the rules and objective of each game.
  - Emphasize boundaries and safety.
  - Emphasize the authority of the Referee.
- Having game announcers calling the action is fun and helps keep the energy level high.
  - Make sure they remember they're dealing with kids.
    - Keep announcing broad, fun, and encouraging.
    - Not jabbing, jeering, or teasing.

## Between Matches

- Between games, sweep up darts and refill the "reload bins".
  - Trampled/dirty darts become unusable and jam up blasters.
- Use reset time for entertainment and announcements:
  - Target shooting challenges.
  - Quick duels (e.g., Wild West-style shootouts).
  - Fun short videos. (IMPORTANT: always preview videos all the way through.)
  - Short ministry highlights (e.g., food pantry introductions).

## Event Add-Ons: Possible event enhancement ideas

- **Food:** Snacks or a meal make the event more family-friendly.
  - **Gospel Presentation:**
    - Do it for reasons that align with your goals for the event.
      - Don't forget people aren't coming to church, they are coming for Nerf.
    - Keep your presentation brief, engaging, and relevant.
    - Focus on a theme that parents will appreciate.
    - Use engaging visuals and storytelling. Make it your best!
    - Keep it short. (15 minutes or less)
    - A presentation can be a great way to highlight your kids ministry and show you have something exceptional to offer the entire family.
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## Step 4: Resetting the Kit

### Responsibilities

- Resetting the Kit
  - It is the responsibility of each church to reset the kit for the next church.
    - **Please follow each of these steps and use extra care to ensure the kit is returned 100% ready for its next ministry use.**
  - Blasters
    - Completely unload all darts from each Blaster.
    - Ensure each one functions properly and is free from damage.
    - Count the Blasters and return them to the bin.
  - Darts:
    - Ensure personal Blasters have been unloaded before they leave.
    - Loosely pack darts being careful not to cause damage by compression.
  - Safety Glasses:
    - Inspect glasses for damage.
    - Count glasses to ensure none are missing.
  - Damaged/Lost Items
    - Blasters
      - If a Blaster no longer functions properly, please return it separately from the bin. If one gets lost, inform the Kit Host.
    - Darts
      - Remove broken/bent/damaged darts and throw them away.
    - Glasses
      - If glasses get damaged or lost, please inform the Kit Host.
- Return the Kit
  - Kits must be returned to the Kit Host Church within 2 weeks of the event.
  - Communicating arrangements with the Kit Host is your responsibility.
  - Please remember, Kit Hosts have graciously volunteered to keep and maintain these kits to make them available to use in your area. Please honor them by:
    - Communicating well.
    - Keeping to agreed upon pick up & drop off times.
    - Properly resetting the kit so they don't have to do extra work.

My prayer is that this kit will help you reach your community with the Gospel. I pray it empowers, excites and mobilizes your church. If I or my office can be of any help or service to you in your effort, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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