

LONGER TABLES

**TABLE**  
**TOGETHER**  
*mesa juntos*

PRESENTED BY

**Southwest** 

[www.tabletogether.org](http://www.tabletogether.org)

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

**WE ARE ABOUT TO MAKE THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD A LITTLE  
MORE CONNECTED.**

# TABLE TOGETHER *mesa juntos*

We are thrilled you're part of the very first 'Table Together.'

Many are saying our world is the most disconnected it's ever been - and ironically, we've never been more connected through technology.

But what if the world we desire is just over the fence? Or across the street?

We know the courage it takes to talk to others, much less invite them to dinner. But we have a feeling, one small gesture, could lead to a more connected world - or at least, a more few neighbors who feel more connected and not as alone as they were before.

We can't wait to do this with you on Wednesday, September 25th!

---

LONGER TABLES

[LONGERTABLES.ORG](http://LONGERTABLES.ORG) | [TABLETOGETHER.ORG](http://TABLETOGETHER.ORG)



## Host Support

*Feel free to email us for  
any reason!*

[host@longertables.org](mailto:host@longertables.org)

# THE THREE THINGS.

## **BE INTENTIONAL.**

Plan and act with intention and generosity.

## **BE CURIOUS.**

Ask questions and be open-minded.

## **BE KIND.**

No matter how people behave, always be kind.

# PLANNING

## Who to Invite.

**Up to 7** guests make for the best conversation and connection. While you may invite more, we encourage keeping it simple.

Who to consider inviting -

- Feel free to invite neighbors you already know, but especially invite a few you haven't met or really haven't connected with.
- Who might feel especially isolated or unseen? Like an older person or someone living alone.
- Feel free to include children! (There are special activities for them in the Table Kit.)
- Focus on neighbors who live nearest to you who you're likely to see regularly.

## QUICK TIP

Once you determine who you'll invite, remember to ask them their preferences and needs when it comes to timing and food.

## Where.

We recommend setting the table in or near your home - kitchen/dining room, yard, common space, driveway, or even a nearby park. Some considerations...

- Is it safe for neighbors and kids to gather in your yard?
- Do you think people will feel comfortable inside your home?
- Consider the weather, if you will need to be indoors or if outdoors will be comfortable.

## When.

When you invite your neighbors, **ask them what time is best** for them, and then set the time that works for most and for you.

Remember to **have a firm ending time**, even if the evening is going great. This respects your time and need to clean up.

## Food!

Now for the tasty part.

**Potluck** - you provide the main entree, ask neighbors to bring sides and/or dessert.

**Order In/Delivery** - order food from a locally-owned restaurant in your neighborhood.

Remember to ask your guests about **allergies, customs and food preferences** before planning the meal.

## QUICK TIP

Watch our host training video on inviting guests and how to handle any type of response!

## QUICK TIP

When they answer the door:

*"Hi, I'm your neighbor [name]. People all over [our community] are inviting neighbors to eat together on the same night, and I'm doing the same here on our street. We would love for you to join us! Are you able to come to dinner on Wednesday, September 25? Thanks so much for taking the time to talk with me! It was so nice to meet you."*

# How to Invite.

1. Invite your guests with at least 2-3 weeks notice.
2. Invite them in-person or with a phone call or personal invitation.
3. Go the extra mile and formalize your invitation with a card or hand-made invitations (great activity if you have kids!)
4. For those who accept your invitation, remind them as the date gets closer, as well as ensure they know what to bring. (Feel free to ask for a cell phone number or email, in order to easily stay in touch.)

# Handling fear and rejection.

It can be scary to invite someone to dinner. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you invite!

- People are busy and this is something new to work into the schedule.
- If they say no, remember it's not about you.
- Keep it simple and kind.
- Sometimes people need to see how something goes before they commit - perhaps they will join next time!
- Whatever their response, thank them for their time and let them know it was good to meet them.
- Always be kind. We can't control how others will respond - but they will always remember our kindness.



# THE TABLE

## Setting the Table.

By setting a table with intention and care, we show our guests they are valued. Here are a few tips!

- Use table cloths, seasonal decorations, plants, fruits, or vegetables as table decor.
- Have fun, and don't get too fancy.
- Remember to use the place cards in the Table Kit!

### QUICK TIP

Don't forget your guests place cards! Hand write their names and mix people up so they sit next to someone they don't know.

## Questions + Toast.

The conversation questions (included in the kit) are meant to guide your conversation into deeper connection. A few tips!

- Don't make it a project - you don't have to complete all of them.
- Leave space and don't rush.
- Focus on questions you think are connecting with people.
- Share short stories.
- Raise a glass and read the included toast to create a meaningful moment.

### QUICK TIP

Don't forget to fill out the Connection Card before or after dinner - and then promise to share everyone's info with the group.



PEOPLE REMEMBER  
NOT WHAT YOU SAID,  
BUT HOW YOU MADE  
THEM **FEEL.**

## Model Authenticity.

As the host, you set the tone for the evening. Guests will take cues from you on how much to share and how to engage with others.

- Be real!
- Don't share trauma, but be honest and take a risk in revealing some of the more difficult parts of your story.
- Just be you - don't try to impress or create the perfect evening.

### QUICK TIP

Share short stories from your life and ask for others to share their stories related to the questions.

## Be Curious and Kind.

- Ask questions.
- Feel free to encourage quieter guests you'd love to hear from them.
- Be kind and gracious - thank people for sharing their stories and for taking risks in sharing.

### QUICK TIP

Thank everyone for sharing and taking a risk to be real.

## No Judgment/Advice.

- If guests share challenges, our job is not to fix but to listen and show compassion.
- People don't like to be fixed or be projects.
- Listen without judgment. Honor people's stories by listening attentively and asking more questions without offering advice or your perspectives.
- Allow a few moments of space if something delicate is shared to honor the moment.

# AFTER THE TABLE

## What's next!?

Often, if people are connecting, they will make plans to continue connecting into the future.

Encourage this by planning another dinner (perhaps someone else wants to host?), a play date for kids or just hanging out in the driveway.

Make sure to invite neighbors to be in touch if any needs come up.

Make plans to ***Table Together, April 2025!***

### QUICK TIP

Our next Table Together will be April 2025. Make plans to come together then, perhaps with a new host!

## Follow Up.

To show people you really care about continuing the connection, follow up with an email, text or card, thanking your guests for joining and contributing.

- Remind them of future plans talked about.
- Invite them for coffee or a further connection.
- Ask about a detail they shared at dinner.



# THE TABLE KIT

**The Magnet** - as you learn neighbor's names, write them on the magnet and see if you can meet all of your neighbors!

**Conversation Card** - Four questions to create a deeper and more connective conversation at the table. (Kids questions included for your younger guests!)

**Toast Card** - Raise your glasses and read this toast to create a special moment.



**Place Cards** - Be sure to write your guest's names on the place cards before they arrive and mix everyone at the table so they get to meet someone new.

**Connection Card** - Before or after dinner, have everyone share their info (what they're comfortable sharing) and promise to share the info via email or text.

**Stickers** - Make sure everyone gets one!

**Mints** - Add to your centerpiece for a mouth refresher after dinner!

**Origami + Coloring Sheets** - great projects for the young and young at heart!



***#tabletogether***



# POSTING PHOTOS + VIDEO

This is our first year *'tabling together'*! One day, we hope to have hosts **across the globe simultaneously** set tables and invite neighbors to dinner.

By posting your photos and video - the world will see all the connections happening - at the same time.

## Take Photos/Video.

Either before or after dinner, ask your guests permission to take a group photo and or video. Videos could include a tour around the table or quick interviews of your guests.

## Post Online.

Post photos/video on Instagram, TikTok or Facebook as soon as your dinner completes, using the hashtags **#tabletogether**, **#longertables** AND tag us - **@setlongertables**.

After your guests leave and you've made plans to follow up with one another, head to **tabletogether.org** to see all the tables, photos and videos from tables across the world, or just your world!

# FAQ

## **Should I include alcohol?**

Up to you! Keep your guests' preferences and customs in mind and keep to beer and wine, rather than the hard stuff.

## **What if my guests want to invite others?**

That's great! But don't be afraid to limit numbers now and encourage a bigger gathering in the future.

## **How should I handle no-shows?**

Don't assume ill intention, but check in on them and let them know they were missed.

## **What if we have to postpone?**

No worries! Feel free to postpone, but reschedule soon, within 1-2 weeks. Be sure to communicate with your guests.

## **Can we include children?**

Absolutely! The Table Kit will come with activities and conversation questions just for kids.

## **How can we keep the momentum going?**

Plan a bigger gathering in 6-8 weeks while including neighbors. Don't forget to ask for help to share responsibilities.

## **What if people aren't comfortable appearing in photos/video?**

That's totally okay. Perhaps post a photo of the table without showing your neighbors.



© 2024 Southwest Airlines Co.

## Southwest Airlines® is dedicated to Denver.

Our mission is to make the connections that empower communities to thrive. Through our meaningful relationships, we proudly support your efforts in the many communities we call home. Whether in the air or the ground, we believe community is more than a place – it's at the Heart of what brings us together.

**Southwest Airlines® is proud to be the official airline of The 528 Table.**

**Southwest®** 

**TABLE**  
**TOGETHER**  
*mesa juntas*

PRESENTED BY  
**Southwest** 

**APRIL 2025.**

Make plans to *table together* again in 2025 as we invite even more people into connection.

---

LONGER TABLES

[LONGERTABLES.ORG](https://longertables.org) | [TABLETOGETHER.ORG](https://tabletogether.org)