

LONGER TABLES

TABLE
TOGETHER
mesa juntos

PRESENTED BY

Southwest 

www.tabletogether.org

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2026

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



We are thrilled you're part of our third year of 'Table Together.'

Many are saying our world is the most disconnected it's ever been.

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 few neighbors who feel more connected and not as alone as they were before.

We can't wait to do this with you in September!

LONGER TABLES

LONGERTABLES.ORG | TABLETOGETHER.ORG



Host Support

*Feel free to email us for
any reason!*

host@longertables.org

**PEOPLE WILL
REMEMBER YOU
INVITED THEM, NOT
HOW PERFECTLY YOU
SHOWED UP.**

QUICK TIP

When they answer the door:

"Hi, I'm your neighbor
People across the city 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
Saturday, September 27? It
was so nice to meet you."

PLANNING

Invite.

Gather your time, food plan and address and hand-write or print out to give to neighbors.

- Invite personally. (Go knock on those doors!)
- Feel free to invite neighbors you already know, but especially invite a few you haven't met or really haven't connected with, or an older person or someone living alone.
- Include children! (There are special activities for them in the Table Kit.)

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. We recommend potluck.

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.

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 or make your own!

QUICK TIP

Don't be afraid to 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 worry about answering all of the questions.
- Leave space and don't rush.
- Share short stories.
- Raise a glass and read the included toast to create a meaningful moment.
- **Don't talk about work or your job titles.**

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.



Just be you.

As the host, you set the tone for the evening.

- Be authentic! Take a risk in being real and sharing some of the harder parts of your story.
- Just be you - don't try to impress or create the perfect gathering.

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.

No Judgment/Advice.

- If guests share challenges, our job is not to fix but to listen and show compassion.
- Listen without judgment. Honor people's stories by listening attentively and asking more questions without offering advice or your perspectives.

AFTER THE TABLE

What's next!?

Encourage future gatherings 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.

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

Items in **blue** only in physical 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.

#tabletogether



POSTING PHOTOS + VIDEO

This is our third year of '*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** 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.



PRESENTED BY
Southwest 

SEPTEMBER 2027

Make plans to *table together* again in 2027, as we invite even more people into connection.

LONGER TABLES

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