



Street Leader

Your complete guide to bringing your neighbours together.

Community Resilience Network

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Welcome!

As a Street Leader, you are stepping forward to strengthen your neighbourhood by hosting informal, fun, and safe “street meets.” These gatherings help neighbours get to know each other, share resources, and build a community that can support one another during both good times and challenging ones. This manual will guide you through the basics of planning, promoting, and running a street meet event that feels true to your unique community.

What is a Street Meet?

A street meet is a simple neighbourhood event—like a backyard barbecue, a picnic under a gazebo on the berm, or a get-together on someone’s driveway—where people can say hello, enjoy some snacks, play games, and get to know each other better. No special training is required, and there’s no need to spend a lot of money. The goal is to create a welcoming environment where neighbours can meet face-to-face.





Your Role as a Street Leader

As a Street Leader, you'll be guiding the process. Think of yourself as a host and cheerleader, not someone who must do it all alone. Your job is to:

1. **Spread the word:** Let neighbours know about the event.
2. **Encourage Participation:** Invite everyone—from kids to grandparents—to attend.
3. **Ask for help if needed:** Other neighbours might help cook, bring a dish, or set up chairs.
4. **Keep the event running smoothly:** Make sure people know where to gather, where to put food, and how to join in activities.
5. **Foster a welcoming atmosphere:** Greet people, introduce neighbours to each other, and make everyone feel included.

Remember: You're not alone. A Street Coordinator is available to support you with ideas, equipment, and guidance. They can help as much or as little as you need. If you'd rather do everything yourself, great! If you need the Coordinator's help arranging supplies, printing invitations, or problem-solving, they're there for you.

Steps to Planning Your Street Meet

1. Pick a Date and Time

Choose a day and time when most neighbours are likely to be home—weekends or early evenings work well. Consider the weather and have a backup date in mind if it's rainy or very windy.

2. Select a location

Find a spot that's easy for people to get to. It could be a grassed berm outside a home, a local park, a cul-de-sac, or a driveway. Make sure there's enough room for everyone, and consider having some shelter (a gazebo or a car boot for information displays) if the weather might turn.

3. Spread the word

- **Invitations:** Deliver simple invitations to each home. A small flyer in mailboxes or a friendly knock at the door can go a long way.
- **Social media:** If your street has a Facebook group or WhatsApp chat, post your event details there.
- **Word of mouth:** Simply tell your neighbours when you see them outside or at the local shop.

Don't worry if some people are hesitant at first—community events often grow as word spreads and trust builds.



4. Plan Food and Activities

Keep it simple. A few snacks, a BBQ with sausages, or a potluck where everyone brings a dish are all great. Consider including dietary options (like vegetarian or halal) if you know your neighbours have specific needs. Supermarket vouchers can be provided through the Street Coordinator or you can request specific food for the coordinator to provide.

For fun, put out some chalk for kids (and adults!) to draw on the footpath, or set up a simple game like giant tic-tac-toe or bubbles. Music at a moderate volume can also set a welcoming tone.

5. Safety and Comfort

Make sure the area is safe. Keep activities away from busy roads. Have sunscreen available if it's sunny. If a coordinator offers supplies like a first aid kit, accept it. Simple steps like securing a gazebo with sandbags and watching out for trip hazards can help everyone feel at ease.



6. Day-of Setup

Arrive a bit early to set things up. Put out the chairs, set up the food table, organise activities, and maybe put on some light music. Greet people as they arrive, introduce new neighbours, and encourage everyone to mingle.

7. During the Event

Chat, eat, and have fun! Encourage neighbours to talk about themselves, their interests, and what they love about the neighbourhood. This is also a great time to ask if people might like future events or have ideas to share.

8. Cleanup and Follow-Up

At the end of the event, thank people for coming. Clean up the area, collect rubbish, and leave the space as nice as you found it. If people enjoyed themselves, consider making this a regular occurrence—maybe every few months or seasonally.

Tips for Success

1

Start Small—Your first event doesn't need to be huge. Even a handful of neighbours connecting is a win. Events can grow over time as trust and interest build.

2

Be Flexible—Weather might act up, or fewer people than expected might show. That's okay! Focus on who does attend and make it a positive experience.

3

Ask for Input—Encourage neighbours to share ideas for future events. Maybe someone can host a crafts station for kids next time, or another neighbour can bring their guitar to play some music.

4

Build Over Time—With each event, you can add new elements—like introducing a neighbourhood Facebook group, or inviting local emergency services to share safety tips at a future meet.

5

Ask the Street Coordinator—The Street Coordinator can provide equipment (like a gazebo or BBQ), food vouchers or food, help print invitations, or share best practices from other neighbourhoods. You decide how much help you need.



Looking to the Future

Your efforts as a Street Leader can have a big impact. As neighbours get to know each other better, they become more likely to watch out for one another, share resources, and come together during a crisis. Over time, these connections can help the street become more resilient, meaning everyone is stronger together when facing unexpected challenges.

You've got this! By stepping up as a Street Leader, you're planting the seeds for a more connected, caring, and prepared community. You don't have to wait until your next Street Meet to connect with neighbours. Connections are often built and maintained by simple interactions: sharing fruit, a simple cup of coffee, or a helping hand. All are great ways of connecting with others.

Remember: A friendly face, a warm smile, and a willingness to try are the most important ingredients for a successful street meet. Good luck, have fun, and enjoy bringing your neighbours closer!

Contact your Street Coordinator

Contact your local Street Coordinator for equipment, help, advise, etc.

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