



Introduction to
Planning

Family Reunions



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INTRODUCTION

Planning a family reunion can be a rewarding, but overwhelming task. While a family reunion is a wonderful opportunity for family members to get together and spend quality time together reminiscing and sharing, there is a lot of work that goes into planning the actual event. Your family event can be as activity-packed or as scaled down as you like, but there is still planning that must be involved to ensure everything goes off without a hitch and everyone has a good time.

When approaching family reunion planning you will find there are many different options available to you for different types of family reunions. Some families even choose to adopt a different theme for their family reunion each year. Regardless of the type of family reunion you choose to host, it is important to get started early and make sure that every phase of the reunion is well planned.

Whether you are an old pro at planning family reunions or this will be your first year to take charge of the planning the family reunion activities, it definitely helps to make sure you have a solid plan in place. This will help to make sure that nothing and no one is overlooked. In the end, a well planned family reunion is a much more enjoyable family reunion for everyone involved.

In this guide, we will walk you through every stage of planning a successful family reunion; from establishing a family reunion planning committee, to choosing a theme, planning for the food and even activities that will help to make your next family reunion a smashing success.

Everything you need to plan a family reunion everyone will be talking about for years to come is contained in this guide.

Are you ready to learn how to plan the best family reunion ever?

Let's get started!



CHAPTER 1

Getting Started Planning your Family Reunion

There are many steps involved in planning a family reunion. The first step is to organize a committee for putting everything together. The size of the committee can vary, based on the anticipated size of the family reunion. If the reunion is to be fairly small and will consist of only a couple dozen people or so, then you can probably get by with just one person to plan the entire event. Of course, if your reunion is going to be larger than that, then you should plan to have a larger planning committee.

The best way to approach planning an event such as a family reunion is to put everything together in a binder. Your binder might contain lists for subcommittees as well as assignments, guests, finances, resources and anything else that relates to the reunion.

Forming a Committee

Your family reunion committee will need to have a chairperson, regardless of size. This person will be responsible for the following:

- Scheduling meetings for the committee and advising members of dates for meetings
- Presiding over committee meetings
- Keeping a list of volunteers and their relevant assignments
- Maintaining a calendar of tasks as they are finished as well as any unfinished business that needs to be completed

Subcommittees

Subcommittees can be helpful in handling many different tasks of planning the family reunion. A subcommittee can be comprised of just one person, if the reunion is to be small. If you are planning a large family reunion, you may find it necessary to assign a chairperson to each subcommittee. That person would then be responsible for reporting back to the senior chairperson of the entire reunion planning committee.

Keep in mind that it is unreasonable to expect that you will be able to do everything on your own when planning a family reunion. You will most likely need to help with many different aspects of planning the upcoming reunion. Do not hesitate to ask for help.

Deciding on a Type of Reunion

One of the first questions you will encounter when planning your family reunion is determining the type of reunion you want to have. Give some consideration to whether you want to invite the entire extended family, which likely means a large reunion, or whether you would prefer to keep it to just one branch of the family. You



should also consider whether you want to hold an annual family reunion or whether you feel it would be best to only hold a reunion once every few years.

One of the most important factors affecting the type of reunion you will have is deciding which part of the family you will invite. You might consider beginning with the relatives closest to you and then working your way outward. For example:

- Mom and Dad
- Siblings and their families
- Aunts and uncles
- Cousins and their families

Keep in mind that the farther back the ancestral line you go, the more attendees you are going to have at your reunion. Carefully consider exactly how large of a reunion you can feasibly handle or you may end up with a reunion that becomes unwieldy.

By far, the simplest and easiest type of reunion to hold is to host a get together at a nearby park or even at a family member's home. If you've never planned a family reunion in the past, this very well could be a simple option for easing your way into it. This type of reunion can be very inexpensive and doesn't require a lot of time to plan. You can easily choose a nice park where you can have the event on an annual basis or you can rotate the event between the homes of family members year after year.

If this idea doesn't appeal to you, there are also other options you can consider as well. For instance, you could invite everyone to get together at a nice restaurant or even at a nice resort or hotel. These options are also simple because they do not require a lot of planning, although you will usually need to make reservations in advance.

You might also consider planning an outdoors activity such as a camping trip, if this is something that your family would enjoy. The key to pulling off this type of family reunion is to make sure you reserve a campsite that is spacious enough for the entire family. This type of reunion can be very easy to plan if everyone brings their own tent or RV and everyone contributes food.

Selecting the right location is one of the most important decisions you will make when planning your family reunion. In most cases, you will need to wait on selecting the location until you have a firm idea of the type of reunion you want to have, projected dates and a basic idea of the number of people who will be attending.

Keep in mind that wherever you choose for your family reunion, there should be sufficient lodging nearby, especially if it is to be a multi-day event.