

Valentine's Day

Costumes: Any trip to Victoria's Secret should give you plenty of ideas!

Atmosphere: Fill a basket with red cellophane shreds and red foil-wrapped heart-shaped milk chocolates. Instead of glitter or confetti around the base, throw around those little heart-shaped candies with sayings like, "Be Mine".

Try using small stuffed animals for centerpieces. At this time of the year, you can often find bears, rabbits, lions, tigers, pandas and more, all holding "I Love You" hearts. Afterwards, you could donate them to a local children's hospital or shelter.

Food: Serve food dyed in colors of pink or red. Chocolates (kisses are especially popular) are great. Provide a valentine decorated cake, with hearts or cupid. Serve pink punch. For table snacks, have conversation hearts, Valentine color M-n-M's, red pistachios, and/or an assortment of valentine candies.

Game Ideas: If you have ever thought about hosting a "Couples" Bunko party, this is a great opportunity. Just remember, you're going to need double of everything. There are many different ways to play large group Bunko. A popular couple alternative would be to play as you would normally, and then at the end of the night the couples add their points together. Prizes can include dinner gift certificates, movie tickets, and his and her gifts.

You will often find that men often do not understand the simplicity of the game and will try to find a strategy behind the play. Expect rushed rolling, questions about holding onto the dice, and other strange stuff.

Mardi Gras

Costumes: Encourage everyone to dress up in fancy attire and wear eye masks. You could even provide materials for each person to create their own masks. Beads are a must, and if you look hard you can find some nice dice beads.

Decorations: Hurricane cups, Mardi-Gras chocolate coins, beads galore, fancy fringed table skirts, colorful metallic colored balloons and jeweled crowns can all add to a Mardi-Gras feel for your party.

Food: Serve some New Orleans style snacks or a real Cajun meal. You could refer to your iced shrimp as crawdads. Serve a special “king” cake complete with a luck baby inside. Of course, genuine French Quarter Hurricane punch is necessary. For table snacks, have (multi-colored) M-n-Ms or Skittles, hot spicy peanuts, and beaded candy.

Game Ideas: The beads and a crown make ideal replacements for fuzzy dice. Instead of having a Traveling Bunko die, use a Bunko crown, or a special oversized set of beads. Bead tossing contests could be another possibility. You might try a “stealing” game, where rolling a straight, or a baby-Bunko, entitles you to steal a set of beads from someone else. When you are out of beads, you may have to perform a dare to get another bead necklace.

St. Patrick's Day

Costumes: Anything green of course.

Atmosphere: Outside your door entrance, place a Blarney Stone for people to kiss as they walk in. When they do, they should make a wish. Any large, CLEAN, rock from the backyard should do just fine. Attach a sign that says, "BLARNEY STONE...kiss here and make your wish!" Shamrocks, and black pots full of gold (chocolate) coins, can give an Irish feel to the room. "Luck o' the Irish" and "Kiss me I'm Irish" buttons are fun. You might want to attach a lucky shamrock to your own collar so that luck-of-the-Irish will be with you!

Food: Serve Corn Beef and Cabbage, or perhaps an assortment of corn beef sandwiches. A baked potato bar, with a variety of stuffed potato fillings is also a lot of fun, and easy. For beverages, nothing beats Irish (green) beer or a green dyed punch, except maybe a dash of Irish whiskey, or Bailey's Irish Cream. For table snacks, pistachios, gold chocolate coins and assorted green candies of course. Irish coffee makes a perfect ending to any St. Patty's Day Bunko Party.

Game Ideas: Have everyone add the prefix "Mc" or "O" to their last name and use it all night long, with penalties for failing to use the Irish version of anyone's name. Have everyone bring quarters, and during the game, anyone who rolls three ones tosses a quarter into a leprechaun's pot o'gold, and has to wear a Leprechaun's hat. Whoever is wearing the hat at the end of the night gets the pot of gold! Exchange a Shillelagh for the Traveling die, and make the last person to roll a Bunko carry it around and talk with an Irish Brogue.