



THINKING AHEAD ABOUT...

PARTY THEMES

It's a fact, college students party. Our goal is to ensure that those parties are safe and appropriately themed. Theme parties are often a fun way to give students an opportunity to express their creativity and even a sense of humor. While most parties are held on private property, it is also important to follow your campus, community, and organization's policies.

BEFORE YOUR PARTY, ASK YOURSELF...

- Does this event rely on stereotypes of certain groups or encourage offensive dress?
- Does the event/title stereotype a certain gender?
- Is your theme centered on "making fun" of a particular people/culture/ campus group? Even if it is not, will people "Go there?"
- Would you be willing to send photos of your event to your parents, your inter/national office, the CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, or YOUR COLLEGE president?

THINGS TO AVOID

- Blackface (or any other colored facepaint meant to portray another ethnicity)
- Men dressing like women/women dressing like men
- Using the word "Ho", "Whore" or other degrading terms in the title of the event
- Wearing Greek letters that are not your own
- Culturally insensitive themes
- Encouraging costumes with minimal clothing or ABC (anything but clothes) events

DON'T LET YOUR PARTIES LOOK LIKE THIS...



These organizations faced a loss of recognition as a result of these parties. By avoiding racially and culturally sensitive words and themes, fraternity and sorority members can prove respect for and acceptance of the communities in which they live.

JUST DON'T BE DUMB!



THINKING AHEAD.

ALL FUN, NO FOUL: CREATIVE YET FUN AND INOFFENSIVE THEMES

Taken straight from the party planning archives of actual colleges and universities, these are some of the best themes we've seen:

- Heroes and Villains
- Disco Party
- Decade themes
- Mardi Gras
- Toga! Toga!
- Famous Couples
- Winter Wonderland (snow party)
- Safari
- Rodeo
- Movie themes
- Mad Men or other television show themes
- Viva Las Vegas
- Castaway/Shipwrecked
- Sporting event themes
- Pirates of the Caribbean
- Party like a Rock Star (celebrity themes)
- Once Upon a Time (fairy tale themes)
- Casino Night
- April Fool's Day Party
- Fire and Ice
- Superheroes
- My Tie (mystery match-up themes)
- Outer Space/Aliens
- Premiere (Hollywood theme)
- New Year's Eve Again

Holmes Murphy offers this educational information to provoke thought and discussion and it should not be viewed as a mandate or requirement.

We view part of our role as an insurance and risk management professional to anticipate your needs and educate you in an effort to complement the organization's loss prevention and control efforts, not replace the decision-making autonomy of our client organizations. We hope you find this educational piece to be of value and stand ready to discuss it further with you or any of your constituents.

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