





Summer gatherings are the ultimate bliss boosters. In fact, research shows that hanging with happy friends can amp your joy and help reduce stress. Next time a get-together breaks out at your place, make the most of it: Fire up the grill and cook some delicious bites using whatever's on hand. (Suggestions here, but improvise!) Add refreshing beer cocktails and lawn games, and no one will believe you didn't plan this good-time affair weeks in advance.

Game On!

A few fun ways to get everyone's blood flowing



Spikeball

Teams of two face off and score points by spiking a ball into a trampoline-like net on the ground, "It can be as casual or as intense as you want, and it can be a hell of a workout," says Chris Ruder, who revived this game, which he played as a child. Buy a set for \$50 at spikeball.com.



Cantaloupe Bowling

You can find all the equipment for this version of a lawn bowling/bocce game in your kitchen, says Cathy Riva, a party planner in New York. Set up plastic bottles or empty beer or soda cans in a bowling-pin formation on your patio or in your yard. Then use a cantaloupe or honeydew melon to knock them down.



Water-Balloon Towel Catch

Split guests into two teams, and give each team a beach towel and a pile of water balloons. Two team members must use their towel to launch a water balloon

toward another teammate, who tries to catch it without popping it, says Riva. The team to make the most successful (dry) catches wins.

one hot bbq menu

Kicked-Up Corn Elevate a simple summer

staple with some southof-the-border flair.

PREP TIME: 5 minutes COOK TIME: 20 minutes

- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- ½ cup grated Parmesan (or cotija cheese)
- 6 ears corn
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 limes, cut into wedges

1. Mix chili powder and cheese; set aside.

- 2. If grilling corn in husks. peel back husks, remove corn silk, and replace husks. Otherwise, strip husks and silk. Place on grill and rotate each ear ¼ turn with tongs every 5 minutes or as husks become blackened.
- 3. Remove corn from grill and strip husks. Brush each ear of corn with olive oil, squeeze with one lime wedge, and sprinkle on cheese mixture to taste. MAKES 6 SERVINGS. Per serving: 157 cal, 8 g fat (2 g sat), 20 g carbs, 167 mg sodium, 3 g fiber, 8 g protein

Grown-up Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

How do you make everyone's favorite sandwich even better? Get creative with the fillings and cook to perfection over an open flame. PREP TIME: 5 minutes

- COOK TIME: 10 minutes 6 slices sourdough bread
- 6 slices rye bread
- 1 medium red onion, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
- 1 medium red pepper, sliced into 1/4-inch rings
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 slices cheddar
- 3 tsp coarse-grain mustard (such as Grey Poupon Country Dijon)
- 3 oz Gouda
- 1/2 Granny Smith apple, cored and sliced into
- 1/2 cup baby arugula

- 1. Preheat grill to medium.
- 2. Brush one side of each bread slice and both sides of onion and red pepper with olive oil, Place onion and red pepper on the grill. Flip when grill marks form, about 3 to 5 minutes.
- 3. Place bread on grill, olive-oil side down. Top sourdough bread with cheddar. On the rye bread, spread mustard and add a thin slice of Gouda. When cheese begins to melt and grill marks have formed on the bread, 3 to 5 minutes. remove from heat.
- 4. Assemble sandwiches: Put onions and red peppers between sourdough slices. and an apple round and a few arugula leaves between rve slices.

MAKES 6 SERVINGS (3 OF EACH SANDWICH). Per cheddar on sourdough sandwich: 342 cal, 13 c fat (4 g sat), 43 g carbs, 589 mg sodium, 3 g fiber, 16 g protein. Per Gouda on rye sandwich: 326 cal, 16 g fat (6 g sat), 36 g carbs, 737 mg sodium, 4 g fiber, 11 g protein

- (about 1 lb), cut into
- 1 zucchini, cut into rounds and then halved

- 3 Tbsp canola oil

- 1. Whisk together marinade

2. Thread vegetables onto 12 skewers. Grill, brushing with extra marinade, for 5 minutes per side or until veggies are lightly charred. MAKES 6 SERVINGS. Per serving (2 skewers): 129 cal, 7 g fat (1 g sat), 15 g carbs, 12 mg sodium, 4 g fiber, 2 g protein

Light Beer Cocktail

4 oz lemonade

Lemon peel or mint

sprig for garnish

> Fill a tall goblet, highball,

halfway with ale. Top off with

Garnish with a citrus twist or

lemonade and stir gently.

MAKES 1 SERVING, Per serving.

135 cal, 0 g fat, 21 g carbs, 9 mg

sodium. Og fiber, 1g protein

or flared pilsner glass

a sprig of mint

Lucy Saunders, author of Grilling with Beer, suggests this refreshing American twist on a shandy, a British drink made with ale, citrus juice, and ginger ale.

- 6 oz India pale ale 1 oz hot sauce

 - Juice from ½ lime Lime wedge and a sprig of fresh cilantro for garnish

and salt. Combine all ingredients in mug over ice. MAKES 1 SERVING. Per serving: 120 cal, 0 g fat, 16 g carbs, 1,210 mg sodium, 1 g fiber, 3 g protein

Thirsty for More?

Take a break from the heat and kick back with this Michelada, a classic Mexican beer cocktail, courtesy of **Mambo Seafood** Restaurants in Texas

- 6 oz beer (pale Mexican lager like Dos Equis)
- 1 splash Worcestershire
- 1 dash black pepper
- Rim a mug with lime juice

- 5 oz tomato juice

Grilled Tropical Fruit with **Greek Yogurt**

There's no beating the juicy, seared-in flavor of fruit on the grill. Topped with cinnamon and a dollop of Greek yogurt (with honey and coconut for a little extra sweetness), it's a fresh and satisfying way to end a meal. PREP TIME: 5 minutes COOK TIME: 10 minutes

- ½ pineapple, cubed 1 mango, cubed
- 11/4 cups nonfat plain
- Greek yogurt 1 tsp cinnamon
- 6 Tbsp toasted coconut
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 1. Skewer pineapple and mango chunks and grill for about 5 minutes on each side until lightly browned.
- 2. Distribute fruit evenly among 6 small bowls and top each serving with Greek yogurt. Sprinkle with cinnamon and coconut, then drizzle with honey.

MAKES 6 SERVINGS, Per serving: 170 cal, 1.5 g fat (1.5 g sat), 26 g carbs, 332 mg sodium, 2 g fiber,



Sweet Veggie

Grill some veggie kebabs. then serve them over greens for a fast salad that's full of fresh flavor. PREP TIME: 15 minutes COOK TIME: 10 minutes

- 1 Japanese eggplant rounds and then halved
- 24 cherry tomatoes
- 1 orange pepper, cubed
- 1 sweet onion, cut into rounds and then

MARINADE:

- 3 Tbsp orange juice
- 1 tsp honey ¼ tsp chili powder
- 1 clove garlic, minced

ingredients and pour over cut vegetables in a wide, shallow dish. Let sit for 5 to 10 minutes.