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Food Festival



To create a food festival where everyone feels welcome and included



Why this matters

Food festivals and international dinners are popular in schools, youth clubs, and local communities—and for good reason! Food brings people together and is a great way to share culture and stories.

But to make sure everyone feels part of the event, it's important to think about how it's planned. Even with the best intentions, food festivals can sometimes make people feel left out or reduced to a stereotype if we're not careful.

This guide is here to help make your event welcoming, respectful, and fun for everyone.



Things to Watch Out For

Remember everyone—especially the minorities

Make sure the event feels like it's for everyone, not just a show-and-tell for those seen as "different."

It's not about putting cultures on display—it's about people coming together and learning from each other naturally. No one should feel pressured to "represent" a whole country or culture just because of their background.



Civil Connections
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Danish food isn't the "default"

If you've grown up in Denmark, your food might feel like the standard or "normal." But what's normal for one person isn't for another.

Avoid saying things like "ethnic food" or calling other traditions "unusual." That creates distance.

At a good food festival, all dishes are part of the shared table. Every meal has a story—and all are worth telling.



Tips for Planning

- Let families choose what to bring. Some may share a dish from another country, some may bring their favorite meal from home. It's all welcome.
- Involve the kids and young people. Ask them what foods they love, what they'd like to try, and how they want the event to feel.
- Start conversations about food. Talk about dishes like pizza, butter chicken, or smørrebrød. Who's tried them? Where do they originate from?
- Let students have a say. If the group is ready, talk openly about culture, belonging, and food.
- Invite parents into the planning. Just make sure the planning group reflects the diversity of the class or group.



And if no one brings food from their "background"?

That's completely okay.

Not everyone feels a strong connection to a specific cultural tradition—and some differences aren't always visible.

What matters most is that people feel comfortable being themselves, sharing something they care about, and being curious about others.

A great food festival is one where people come together, try new things, and leave feeling a little more connected than when they arrived.

