
Considering an Outdoor Event?

An outdoor event is a good choice; people are often in a better mood and are more attentive. However, outdoor events pose a number of unique challenges. Consider the following to ensure your outdoor event is a success.

Weather

Obviously, we can't plan or sometimes even predict the weather for an upcoming event, particularly when the planning starts many months in advance. If you can, check the long range forecast and prepare accordingly.



Always have a back-up plan. The plan can include cooling stations, fans, or portable air conditioners if the weather is very hot or fire pits and heaters if it is cold. You should also consider renting a party tent with detachable sides that will allow you to protect food and your guests from the sun as well as rain.

Inspect the Location

Inspect the location of your event at the same time that it will be held. This will help you determine if you need additional lighting, shade from the sun, or tents.

Food Selection

Deciding what kind of food to serve is very important. Keep in mind that a lot of food can spoil or be ruined in hot temperatures. You also have to find a way to keep the insects away from the food. If it is hot outside you probably don't want to serve hot food, cold foods are a better choice.

Finger foods and appetizers are often a great choice for mingling or small events. Keep in mind that a sit down meal will require additional seating, plates, cutlery, etc.

Signage

Depending on where your event is located within an outdoor facility (e.g. could be in a large park), you may require directional signage to direct attendees.

Facilities

There are a number of other elements that you must consider relating to the facilities, which include:

Waste disposal – are there enough garbage cans or recycling stations or will you need

to set these up when you arrive?

Washroom facilities – are there enough washrooms for the amount of people you are expecting? If not, do you plan on bringing in additional facilities?

State of the grounds – e.g. are there mud walkways, etc. that must be taken in consideration, which could pose tripping hazards or be difficult for the disabled to navigate?

Parking – is there enough parking located close by for attendees? You can consider alternative transportation if there is not enough parking including booking buses. You may also want to encourage attendees to car pool.

Permits – depending on the outdoor location, particularly if it is a public area, you may require a permit for the event.

Fire codes – check the fire codes before the event. Codes will outline things such as seating arrangements, etc.

Lighting and electrical – will you require additional power, e.g. generators for the event? This is very important to consider in advance because it can be difficult to get additional power the day of the event.

Health and safety considerations – this can include adequate first aid stations in case of emergency and whether you require a fence.

There are a number of things that you must consider when planning an outdoor event as we outlined in this article. But keep in mind that an outdoor event can be a lot of fun and can be very memorable.

Contact us today to learn how we can help you with the audiovisual elements of your next outdoor event.

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