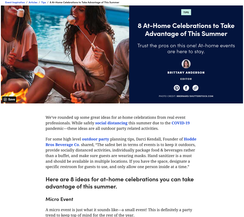

8 At-Home Celebrations to Take Advantage of This Summer

Trust the pros on this one! At-home events are here to stay.

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We've rounded up some great ideas for at-home celebrations from our event professionals. While safety **social distancing** this summer due to the **COVID-19** pandemic—these ideas are all outdoor party related activities.

For some high level outdoor party planning tips, Davis Kendall, Founder of **Hoddie Bros Beverage Co.** shared, "The safest bet in terms of events is to keep it outdoors, provide socially distanced activities, individually package food & beverages rather than a buffet, and make sure guests are wearing masks. Hand sanitizer is a must and provide plenty of it throughout the event. Also, it's a good idea to have a specific restroom for guests to use, and only allow one person inside at a time."

Here are 8 ideas for at-home celebrations you can take advantage of this summer.

Micro Event

A micro event is just what it sounds like—a small event! This is definitely a party trend to keep top of mind for the rest of the year.

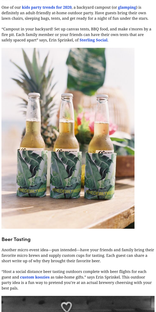
Davis Kendall shares, "We saw the micro-event trend starting in 2019, but COVID has accelerated it to a whole new level of popular. And, that's totally OK. Not every party has to be a super-header gathering—allow you to create deeper connections, and that's what we're all craving right now."

A micro event can be anything like an intimate birthday at home, a backyard party with friends or even hosting a socially distanced, and safe, Thanksgiving. The key is to continue with a small group that's most important to you.

Backyard Campout

One of our **kids party trends for 2020**, a backyard campout (or **glampig**) is definitely an adult-friendly at-home outdoor party. Have guests bring their own lawn chairs, sleeping bags, tents, and get ready for a night of fun under the stars.

"Campout in your backyard! Set up canvas tents, BBQ food, and make s'mores by a fire pit. Each family member or your friends can have their own tents that are safely spaced apart" says, Erin Sprabrel, of **Sterling Social**.



Beer Tasting

Another micro event idea—just intended—have your friends and family bring their favorite micro brews and supply custom cups for tasting. Each guest can share a short write-up on why they brought their favorite beer.

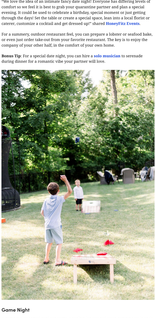
"Host a social distance beer tasting outdoors complete with beer flights for each guest and **custom koozies** as take-home gifts," says Erin Sprabrel. This outdoor party idea is a fun way to pretend you're at an actual brewery cheering with your best pals.

Photo Session

This may be less of a party, but it's an at-home celebration nonetheless. If you have a photographer friend, or a photo-savvy family member, a photo session is the way to go—plus you get to play photographer! Whether it's your backyard or living room, the photos will be precious.

"One of the things I miss the most during this time is the intimate interactions with my clients. I miss being able to hug them and have them close to me. The cameras come and go, but the memories are my own home with my two daughters exploring my setup with the tripod and everything" says Kimberly Thomas of **Kimberlee Brooke, LLC**.

Bonus Tip: Not feeling confident in your photography skills? You can always hire a professional **photographer** who can take photos outside while social distancing.

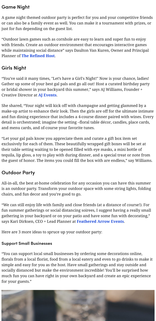


Date Night

"We love the idea of an intimate fancy date night! Everyone has differing levels of comfort so we feel it is best to grab your quarantine partner and plan a special evening. It could be used to celebrate an anniversary that encourages interface games through the date! Set the table or create a special "special" dinner for two, or takeout, customize a cocktail and get dressed up" shared **Danielle Evans**.

For a summery, outdoor restaurant feel, you can prepare a lobster or seafood bake, or even just order take-out from your favorite restaurant. The key is to enjoy the company of your other half, in the comfort of your own home.

Bonus Tip: For a special date night, you can hire a **solo musician** to serenade during dinner for a romantic vibe your partner will love.



Game Night

A game night themed outdoor party is perfect for you and your competitive friends or can also be a family event as well. You can make it a tournament with prizes, or just for fun depending on the guest list.

"Outdoor lawn games such as cornhole are easy to learn and super fun to enjoy with friends. Create an outdoor environment that encourages interface games through the social distance" says Daulton Van Ryzen, Owner and Principal Planner of **The Refined Boot**.

Girls Night

"You've said it many times, "Let's have a Girl's Night!" Now is your chance, ladies! Gather up some of your best gal pals and go all out! Host a current birthday party or bridal shower in your backyard this summer," says AJ Williams, Founder + Creative Director at **AJ Events**.

She shared, "Your night will kick off with champagne and getting glammed by a make-up artist to enhance their look. Then the girls are off for the ultimate intimate and fun dining experience that includes a s-more dessert paired with wines. Every detail is orchestrated, juggles the setting—floral table decor, candles, place cards, and menu cards, and of course your favorite tunes.

"Let your pal pick know you appreciate them and curate a gift box item set exclusively for each of them. These beautifully wrapped gift boxes will be set at their table setting waiting to be opened with your mimosa, a cute photo with a margarita, lip gloss, a toy to play with during dinner, and a special treat to seal from the guest of honor. The items you could fill the box with are endless," say Williams.

Outdoor Party

BES-ed, the best at-home celebration for any occasion you can have this summer is an outdoor party. Transform your outdoor space with some string lights, folding chairs, and few decor and you're good to go.

"We can still enjoy life with family and close friends (at a distance of course!) For the summer gatherings or social distancing soirees, I suggest having a really small gathering in your backyard or on your patio and have some fun with decorating," says Kari Dickson, CEO + Lead Planner at **Feathered Active Events**.

Here are 3 more ideas to spruce up your outdoor party:

Support Small Businesses

"You can support local small business by ordering your decorations online, renting tents, tables, and chairs from a local rental company or go DIY! Make it simple and easy for you as the host. Have small gatherings and stay outside and socially distanced but make the environment incredible! You'll be surprised how much fun you have right in your own backyard and create an epic experience for your guests."

Create Custom Cocktails

According to Brooke Ardolay of **Orange Blossom Special Events**, "Custom cocktails are here to stay! Pre-pandemic, "signature" cocktails were a big part of in-person events. Creating a custom mixed cocktail with a personalized name was always a favorite tale of my couples as they planned their day. Who says that has to stop?

"If your event has some virtual guests you can "mixed in" to friends and family celebrating from afar, so they can drink the same cocktail from the safety of their own home. Then, mix up the concoction for the people you're celebrating with in-person. You can take the concept a bit further by dripping cocktail kits," says Brooke Ardolay.

Use Paper Stationary

"Much larger paper stationary! Having a small gathering doesn't mean you can't go all out and have fun with the details. A paper menu in the mail or a constructive drop off to such a fun way to entice your guests and get them into the mood of party" says Jordan Kerstetter of **A Good Day Inc.**

"During the party, menus and place cards can keep the design flowing throughout the gathering and it's a little keepsake for them to remember after the party is over." Party guests at your small outdoor party will really appreciate these thoughtful touches.

If you're looking to celebrate a special day this summer, an at-home celebration is a good idea according to Davis Kendall, "Love the idea, send a for yourself and host an amazing backyard soiree. Just because you're social distancing, doesn't mean you can't be social!"

*Find more tips for hosting an at-home **outdoor party** from The Bash.*

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