



## TEAM OMF

# Steps for Planning Your Dinner Party

- Table decorations can be created from objects around your house. You can use jars filled with cheerful yellow flowers, votive candles that shine light through the crystal and glass, creating a warm and comfortable environment in which to dine. The arrangement should be less than a foot high. This allows guests on opposite sides of the table to see one another.
- To designate seating arrangements, use oversized place cards written on both sides so the names can be seen and remembered by all guests around the table.
- To accommodate all of your guests invited to your party. You may want to rent the table, tablecloths and chairs for your living room. You should use your own flatware and then accent your table with platinum dishes with colorful napkins (a classic black or white napkins are timeless). Don't be afraid to mix and match your accessories, and only rent only what you need to keep costs at a minimum.
- You should use two tablecloths to add an elegant touch to the table. You may want to gather the top cloth in three places and secure it with metallic-gold wired ribbon tied in a bow. This adds an elegant and inexpensive decorative touch.
- The dining room table is more eclectic by using multicolored plates and a variety of flowers. If you are using two rooms coordinates the rooms with the same theme (e.g. crystal candles, with bright flower vases). The combination of bright flower and crystal will pull the two dining areas together. A combination of color on the table is fun and non-threatening, and allows for many decorating possibilities.
- Craft the invitation to fit the event. Many different types of invitations can be found at your local stationery store or you can design them on the computer at home. Be creative, you can use calligraphy pens or many other decorative touches. Decorate the envelope with the same style to match your invitations. You should keep the price of your invitations as modest as possible.
- You should then make separate RSVP cards that are stamped and self-addressed.
- Make sure all the information is included: date, time, place, RSVP, type of party and dress code.
- Send the invitations well in advance.
- Keep your dining room cool and comfortable for your guests.
- Put a few extra hand towels and flower arrangements in the powder room.
- For extra help in preparing for your party and cleaning up afterward, hire a neighborhood teen.

- To avoid confusion at the end of the party, have a good system for keeping coats and purses organized.
- Work out a menu that is not labor intensive and can be prepared in advance.
- Don't be afraid to expand your dining space to accommodate as many guests as you want to invite to your party.
- Try something new: mix and match your dinnerware. You'll be surprised at all the interesting combinations you'll discover.
- Most of all sit down and enjoy your guests while to benefiting the OMF.