

How to host a Pollin8 Picnic

If you love baking and cooking or just love to create fun events for your local community then Celebr8 could be the Pollin8 challenge for you.

Hosting a Pollin8 Picnic can help nurture a network of like-minded people and help you make connections within your local community. Eating outside is a wonderful way to reconnect with nature and feel gratitude for the amazing way in which our planet supports and nourishes us. Running an event like this to raise funds for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust is an amazing way to raise awareness and celebrate the variety of food that bumblebees help to pollinate.

1. Planning your event

Date: Picking a date in spring or summer will of course increase your chances of getting some dry, sunny weather for your picnic! We all know that UK weather can be somewhat temperamental, so it's a good idea to have an indoor back-up plan, just in case the weather turns!

Time: You'll have more interest in your event if more people can make it. If you host during the day on a weekend, it means that people who work and or have children might find it easier to attend.

Location: If the weather is nice, you could host your picnic in your garden, allotment or you may choose to gather at a favourite local outdoor spot. In that case, you would need to arrange for public liability insurance to legally protect you and any attendees in the event of any accident or injury. If acquiring public liability insurance is not an option, it may be easier to host your picnic at a local hall/school/churches or community centre. While there may be a fee, choosing these venues not only supports the community but they'll often have all the essential requirements, such as public liability insurance. They may even have a space where you can gather and eat outdoors.

Gather helpers: Do you have friends in your community, or do you know anyone who would be willing to help you run the event? If you're not quite sure, put out a shout-out when advertising your event as it is so useful to have extra hands on the day to help set up and manage the event.

Extras: You might want to add to your event by having additional activities, for example organising a talk, a raffle or a quiz. Check out your toolkit for our bumblebee quiz!

Spread the word: Remember that when you're telling everyone about your event, use a variety of different methods as not everyone is online. Tell other local groups, post on your community page, and put up posters around the area. Check out our poster template in your toolkit. When promoting the event, make sure to include all the essential information. Make plans for people with dietary requirements by making sure there is a range of gluten-free, nut-free, dairy-free, or vegan cakes and protocols in place to avoid cross contamination. Don't forget to mention that attending the event will help raise funds for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and offer a great opportunity to meet local community members, share recipes, and of course, share food.



bumblebeeconservation.org

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is a registered charity (England & Wales 1115634 / Scotland SC042830).

Correspondence address: Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Beta Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, Stirling FK9 4NF.

Registered address: International House, 109-111 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JA.



2. The event

Donations: Think about how you'd like to raise donations at your event. For example, you might decide to sell tickets beforehand, or you may just encourage people to donate on the day. If you set up a JustGiving page for your event, you will be given a link and a QR code to share with people so that they can donate online. Setting up a JustGiving page will also allow you and your supporters to see you're fundraising target, which can motivate people to donate more. Alternatively, you may decide to set up a donation station at your event so that people can donate in cash or you can direct them to donate to our website. People may be more likely to donate to the Trust if they can find out more about the work they would be supporting, so do let us know if you would like any leaflets to support your event. Check your toolkit for a poster with a donation QR code to make donating as easy as possible for your guests!

The format: You may choose to run your event as a Pot Luck style or you may choose to leave the provision of food to the group or team managing the event. However, you choose to do it, just make sure that everything is clearly labelled with names of food items and most importantly any ingredients/allergy information. Make plans for people's dietary requirements and avoid any cross contamination. The purpose of a Pollin8 Picnic is to *Celebr8* the variety of fruit and vegetables that are pollinated by bumblebees. Check out your toolkit for recipe cards to get some inspiration. Don't forget to share your favourite recipes with us, we can add them to the toolkit so that other people hosting a Pollin8 Picnic can enjoy them!

3. After the event

Stay in touch: Find ways of staying in touch with your attendees as maybe they would like to attend future events. Did they enjoy learning about bumblebees? Maybe you could direct them to our enews sign-up on our website so they can find out more about these amazing pollinators.

Shout about it: We'd love to hear all about your event, but make sure the rest of your community hear about it too! Take lots of photos and post them on your community page, circulate in a community email, or ask to write a short article for your local newsletter. Remember, if you plan on sharing photos or videos of your event, only do so if people have provided consent.

Get in touch!

Post: Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Beta Centre,
Stirling University Innovation Park, Stirling FK9 4NF
Phone: 01786 594 130
Email: membership@bumblebeeconservation.org
Web: www.bumblebeeconservation.org

Follow us:

During your event, remember to take lots of photos and videos and tag us on social media so we can share them with our followers.

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