



How to...

FUN FACT

Americans eat more than 2 billion cookies a year—about 300 cookies per person.



Host a holiday sweets swap

Get into the spirit of the season by exchanging treats at this fun event.

During the holiday season, many people enjoy hosting or attending a party called a cookie swap or cookie exchange. Everyone brings a batch of cookies to trade and goes home with sweets to enjoy. Here's how you can plan one of these fun events.

Create the guest list

Decide who your guests will be and ask an adult to help you invite them to the party. You could draw an invitation that explains how the party works and take a photo of it to send to everyone. On the invitation, you'll want to include how many cookies each person should bring. For example, if you're inviting 12 guests, you might ask each individual to bring 24 cookies. This way, each person can take home two cookies that other people made. Ask everyone to bring an empty cookie tin, box, or platter so they have something to carry their new treats home in.

Set up your space

A kitchen or dining room table is the perfect place to set up for your party. Ask an adult for help putting down a tablecloth and possibly also making a festive

centerpiece using holiday plants or decorations you have at home. Then take small pieces of paper and fold them in half. Put them out with some pens. (These will be used to identify the cookies.) On another nearby table, set out savory snacks like cheese and crackers or vegetables with dip, since there will be so many desserts. Put out beverages and cups, too, so guests can help themselves.

Let the swapping begin

When your guests arrive, have them place their cookies on the table. Ask them to write their name and type of cookie on the paper you supplied. It's also a good idea to ask them to note any important information about their treats, like if they contain nut products or are gluten-free.

Once the table is full, have guests go around and fill their tins with cookies. Encourage them to chat about the cookies and ask questions.

Share the recipes

In addition to cookies, some guests like to go home with the recipe for each treat. You could ask guests to share their recipes ahead of time. Compile them into one document, then give a copy to each guest!



Bake a big batch!

More ways to share



Baked goods aren't the only items to trade! Here are more ideas for holiday swaps.

Crafts For a crafts swap, you and guests can decide to exchange crafts you've made, such as holiday decorations, or share supplies you don't need.

Board games You may have games or puzzles at home that you no longer use, and your friends likely do, too. Gift each other "new" ones at a swap!

Books Once you've finished a book, someone else may enjoy it. Gather your friends for a book exchange so you can all discover new authors and series.