

Planning the Perfect Family Reunion

As the summer is quickly approaching, **do not delay on planning** the perfect family reunion. In addition to being a lot of fun, family reunions provide a great way to catch up with relatives and strengthen family bonds. However, family reunions can be difficult to plan and organizing a successful reunion does take some work. Nevertheless, if you are willing to take the time and are interested in planning a successful reunion, here are a few steps that you may find quite helpful.

First, you will need to **decide which family members you are going to invite** to the reunion. You may only choose to invite direct family members, such as parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters. On the other hand, you may choose to expand the reunion to include 2nd and 3rd cousins. Remember, before you get carried away inviting every relative that exists, the bigger the reunion, the more difficult it is going to be to plan.

Second, you may find it helpful to **form a small committee**. Creating a committee will make organizing the reunion drastically easier for you. With a reliable committee, you will be able to pass some assignments to others and not have to worry about doing all the work by yourself. Then, think about which of the tasks below can be assigned to the different committee members.

Third, it is beneficial to do a quick survey and **find out when the best time for the reunion** is going to be for the majority of your family. There are likely going to be conflicting schedules with some people, so send out an email with a few dates, asking each family member to list which dates they would be available for the reunion. That way you can plan for a time that works best for everyone.

Fourth, you will need to **pick a location**. If everybody lives close, just pick a convenient location for you to all meet. If your family is spread out, try to pick a central location so that traveling will not be too much of a burden.

Fifth, you need to find how much you need to **budget for the reunion**. How much are you and everybody else willing to spend? This will ultimately determine where you go, how long you will be there, the activities you will do, and the food you will eat.

Sixth, you will likely have to **reserve a site ahead of time**. You might want to reserve rooms in a hotel, a park pavilion, or even a swimming pool.

Finally, once you know the amount of people that will be coming and the budget that everybody is willing to spend, make sure to **plan a large variety of activities** for everyone. Remember that you will need activities for children as well as adults so that everybody that comes will have an enjoyable time and want to participate in the reunion next year!