

Shared Dinner Club Planning Checklist

One host, one menu, and a recipe for every couple to bring and share.

How this dinner club works

Dinner club is a shared experience. The host chooses the theme and coordinates the evening, but no one person prepares the entire meal. Each couple receives one recipe or contribution to make and bring. Together, the group creates the full menu and shares the work, the food, and the experience around the table.

Menu & Recipe Assignments

#	Couple	Recipe / Contribution	Notes
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Possible assignments: Welcome drink • Appetizer • Salad • Main dish • Side dish • Bread • Dessert

Planning the Shared Experience

Clear assignments make the evening easier for the host and more enjoyable for everyone.

Host Checklist

- ☐ Choose the dinner date, theme, and general menu
- ☐ Ask about allergies and dietary restrictions
- ☐ Select recipes that work well together
- ☐ Assign one recipe or contribution to each couple
- ☐ Send each couple the recipe, serving size, and arrival time
- ☐ Tell guests whether dishes should arrive hot, chilled, or ready to finish
- ☐ Confirm who is bringing beverages, bread, ice, or serving extras
- ☐ Choose which serving dishes the host will provide
- ☐ Set the table and prepare the gathering space
- ☐ Create a loose timeline for serving each course

Each Couple's Checklist

- ☐ Review the assigned recipe and ask questions early
- ☐ Confirm any ingredient substitutions with the host
- ☐ Shop for the ingredients needed for your dish
- ☐ Prepare as much as possible before leaving home
- ☐ Bring the correct amount for the final guest count
- ☐ Transport the dish safely in a covered container
- ☐ Bring any special garnish, sauce, or finishing ingredient
- ☐ Label your serving dish or container if needed
- ☐ Arrive at the agreed time so the menu stays on schedule
- ☐ Be ready to briefly explain or serve your contribution

Shared Responsibilities

- ☐ Agree on the next host and tentative date
- ☐ Rotate assignments so couples try different courses
- ☐ Share photos and recipes after the dinner
- ☐ Note which dishes worked especially well together
- ☐ Keep the evening collaborative, not competitive
- ☐ Help with serving, clearing, and light cleanup
- ☐ Make room for conversation instead of chasing perfection

Details to Send Everyone

Fill in the information every couple needs before dinner night.

Final guest count:	
Dinner start time:	
Arrival time for food:	
Theme or dress idea:	
Where to park:	
What the host is providing:	

Dinner Day & Table Flow

The host coordinates the rhythm, while every couple helps bring the meal to life.

Before Guests Arrive

- ☐ Confirm that each couple is still bringing the assigned recipe
- ☐ Clear refrigerator and counter space for arriving dishes
- ☐ Set out trivets, serving utensils, and labels
- ☐ Prepare water, ice, and a simple drink station
- ☐ Note which dishes need reheating or refrigeration
- ☐ Choose a space for coats, bags, and food containers

As Couples Arrive

- ☐ Place each dish in its planned serving area
- ☐ Confirm which dishes need warming, chilling, or garnishing
- ☐ Keep recipe owners involved in finishing their dish
- ☐ Offer a welcome drink while everyone gets settled
- ☐ Take a quick menu photo before serving

During Dinner

- ☐ Invite each couple to introduce the dish they brought
- ☐ Serve courses at a relaxed pace
- ☐ Pass dishes family-style when practical
- ☐ Make sure everyone has water and a nonalcoholic drink option
- ☐ Enjoy the meal; the host should not disappear into the kitchen

After Dinner

- ☐ Package leftovers and return serving dishes
- ☐ Share recipe links or copies with the group
- ☐ Choose the next host, theme, and tentative date
- ☐ Make note of favorite dishes or timing improvements
- ☐ Help the host with a quick, shared cleanup