

Hosting A House Party

House parties are a great way to both educate and motivate concerned citizens about keeping Alaska wild. Our new videos on the Tongass National Forest, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska show the beauty and diversity of these unique landscapes. Just as important, these videos will compel the viewers to do something, to take action, to make a difference. So when you host a video party, you should be ready to ask your peers after the video to do something, like write a letter to their members of Congress.

The type of get-together you have depends on you. It can be an after dinner party, a Saturday afternoon barbecue, a fun twist on your group's monthly meeting, or a block party. The key isn't the setting. It's letting people know not only what is at stake, but also that they can have a big impact, whoever they are.

Party Tips:

- 1) Invite a variety of people. Think about more than just friends and family. Invite co-workers, hiking buddies, or that person you always see on the elevator. Sometimes having a crowd of a couple dozen people improves the atmosphere.
- 2) Depending on how large you would like the party to be, consider using websites like evite.com which allow you to email invitations to folks and track RSVP's or mail out fun invites since we all appreciate getting something fun in the mail.
- 3) Have paper and pens ready. People will be most motivated to write a letter immediately after the movie, so take that opportunity to ask them to take action and collect the letters to make sure they get to your representative or senators. You can send the completed letters back to the League to be hand-delivered in Washington, DC: 122 C St NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC, 20001.
- 4) Consider inviting local elected officials to your party like your local city council person, mayor, or even your representative. If you need assistance finding an address or contact for your representative just let us know, we'll be glad to help.
- 5) If you know that a local dignitary or well-known personality will be attending your event, consider inviting local press to the event to educate them about the issue in the video you will be showing. The League can assist you with a press advisory and press release as well as help you create a media plan for the event if you are interested. Please contact your regional field staff person or our Washington, DC office if you need assistance.
- 6) Following the event, send a write up about your event with photos or write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper outlining local support for the issue you educated folks about and calling on your representative and senators to help work to conserve and restore wild Alaska.
- 7) Please consider taking photos of your event and sending us (liz@alaskawild.org) a report on how your event went. We'll post your photos on our website to inspire others to host their own party.



Alaska Wilderness League staff are always available to help you with your party. To request a video, please call 202-544-5205 or email info@alaskawild.org.