



BIRTHDAY PARTY RUNDOWN

You may have already read the basic Birthday Party information on the website but here are some additional things beyond that, to hopefully fill in the blanks:

Our portion of the party is two hours, from pick-up to drop off. Because of our after-school schedule, weekends are best, but if we can work it out on a weekday, we will try. We usually meet the group anywhere near or just inside the park, depending on what is most convenient for you. The the **SE corner of 81st and CPW** or the **SW corner of 79th and 5th** are great – we can do any activity within those areas of the park.

We do not require a deposit, but do ask that you pre-schedule a backup date for the next day, the following weekend or whenever else, in case of rain. We also recommend putting it on the invitation so everyone is on the same page ahead of time (though once we get down to selecting an actual date, we will have to see if those specific dates all work out or not). You should also tell everyone to bring a rain jacket if rain is in the forecast because if it is sprinkling out, we will still run the party. If thunderstorms or heavy rain are in the forecast, we will talk the night before or the morning of the party to make a decision about whether or not to cancel. If it is cold and/or snowy, the kids just need to dress appropriately for the given weather and they will be fine.

In our experience, there are always late arrivals. If, for example, the party is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. on a Saturday, but we cannot leave until 12:45 or 1:00 because someone is late (and someone will be), that takes away from the time we have allotted for the party and we will not be able to get to all of the planned activities. Our recommendation is that you tell everyone the party starts at least 15 minutes before it actually starts. If you put 12:15 on the invitation (for a 12:30 party), it should not affect the actual two-hour timeframe of the party when someone is running late.

After the party, if you would like us to return the group to a nearby restaurant, pizza place, your place, etc., we can do that. Or, you can have everyone meet at the picnic tables at *Ross Pinetum* (near 85th Street, closer to the west side) and we will return the group there. If this is the case, parents typically use the two-hour window of party time to set up for lunch, bring in the cake, set up balloons, order pizza, sandwiches, etc. (we do not provide food, cake or party favors). Whatever you want the party to be, we can mold the day to fit your needs so just let us know!

As far as the actual party is concerned, we will show up with plenty of things to do. These activities will of course be a lot of fun and we will keep them running around, moving from game-to-game. If it is a child who has been in the program for awhile, we either let the *Explorer* choose a favorite activity or two or we pick something he or she has not done with us before. If your child is new to the program, we will select a couple of our most popular activities for the party. In general, we usually start off with a high-energy activity to warm up, then we switch gears and either do a bunch of birthday party games or head into a wooded area for one of our outdoorsy-type activities – or even a little of both! It will depend on the group size and weather too, but either way, we will choose age-appropriate games and activities for the group and it promises to be a memorable time.

You can accompany us if you like, but it is not necessary for parents to tag along. Enjoy the 2 hours off! It is tricky because of course you want to see what your child is experiencing, but it has been a distraction in the past. When they are with us in the park, kids usually jump right in and eagerly participate in the activities we present; for whatever reason, when their parents are there, some kids tend to look to them for approval, shy away from activities or in some cases, they can even get very emotional about the smallest of incidents. Also, some kids will not leave their parent's side and do not end up enjoying the party as much. That being said, you know best – if you think it is necessary and you do not feel it will be an issue, you can definitely tag along.

If there are **less than 7 kids**, it will be **\$425** with one staff member. Anywhere from **7-14 kids** will be **\$550** and includes two staff members. If there are more kids than that, it is **\$675** from **15-21 kids** (3 staff members), **\$800** from **22-28 kids** (4 staff) and so on. Payment is not due until the day of the party (before or after is fine). If you wish to pay by check, please make it payable to *Mohr's Explorers, LLC*.

If you wish to schedule a party or if you have any other questions, concerns, etc., please do not hesitate to ask – thanks!

Yours truly,

Mike Mohr
Owner, *Mohr's Explorers*