

Host a Whale Watching Party Here's How!

You can spread the word about whaling in a very personal way: throw a Whale Watching House Party for your friends and family - invite the neighbors too! Watch a brand-new video of Greenpeace ships confronting the Japanese whaling fleet, and plan a postcarding event with your guests. The parties will be an opportunity to learn more about the campaign, to involve friends and neighbors, and to make a plan to educate consumers and put pressure on Gorton's.

Hosting a house party is fun and easy. It's likely there are whale-lovers in your area who will be happy to help as long as someone takes the first step and gets things going. Your main responsibility as the party host is to manage the flow of the evening and to help guide discussions. Don't worry if this is your first time hosting a party like this. Your guests are all there because they want to make a difference, so they won't care if things aren't perfect. And, this guide will walk you through the steps of organizing a successful house party.

This guide lays out all of the necessary steps, starting from now through after the party. You can download all the materials you will need for your party from the Whale Activist Kit at www.greenpeaceusa.org/gortons. You will need to make copies of some of these materials for your party. If you have any questions, or if you would like us to mail you a Whale Watching House Party Kit, please send us an email at whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org. To make sure we get you your Whale Activist Kit in time for your party, be sure to include that date of your party in your request. Also include the number of people you expect will attend your party so we are sure to send you enough materials.

www.greenpeacesusa.org/gortons
whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org

Ten Steps to a Successful Whale Watching House Party

1. Decide on a location for your party.

Parties can be held in any of a number of different venues, and depending on the number of people you expect will attend, you need to make some logistical considerations.

Some questions to consider include:

- If you live in an apartment building, will people need to be buzzed in?
- If you're holding the party at home, which room will be most comfortable for watching and discussing the video? For writing letters and making origami whales?
- If you're holding it somewhere else, such as a coffee house or classroom, you may want to scout out the location – will it serve your needs?
- Do you have enough chairs?

2. Invite friends, family and co-workers.

Send friends, family and co-workers an invitation letter or email with enough advance notice to accommodate busy schedules. You can send the flyer from the Whale Activist Kit along with your invitation to give folks some background on the whaling issue. Be sure to include the date, time and location of your party. Including directions to the venue can be very helpful for folks who are not familiar with the neighborhood where your party will be held.

3. Make sure you have the right technology.

In order to show the video at your party you'll need a computer with internet access or a TV and DVD player. You'll want to download the footage in advance of the party or get a copy of the DVD mailed to you in time for your party! Your guests may be able to help out with any technology needs... just send them an email if you need a computer, DVD player or TV.

4. Decide on snacks.

While not necessary, food and drinks certainly are a plus. Feel free to ask your guests to bring something specific to share.

5. Come up with an agenda.

Plan a general agenda for the party ahead of time. While it is always best to let the party flow naturally, a loose plan can help make a good party. Taking a few minutes to make sure you're clear on the agenda will make everything go smoothly on the day of the party. Check out the "Sample House Party Agenda" we've included in the Whale Activist Kit to get ideas on how to organize your party agenda.

Some questions to consider while planning your agenda include:

- How long would you like your party to last and what are key components of your party?
- What will you say to transition between agenda items?
- Do you need a timekeeper?

If you are interested in Greenpeace giving a short presentation on Gorton's during your House Party, Oceans Campaigner Beth Fitzgerald is available on Friday evenings to participate in your house party by phone. Her presentation gives a brief history of whaling, an overview of the International Whaling Commission and the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, and discussion of Greenpeace's international campaign to end whaling, including our work on Gorton's. This short presentation leaves ample time afterward for questions and answers. Contact Beth at whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org at least 2 weeks in advance to schedule her participation.

6. Prepare materials.

Make sure to download materials from the Whale Activist Kit ahead of time. You may want to make copies of certain items to pass out to your guests. You can also request materials be mailed to you by sending an email to whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org. If so, be sure to include the date of your party and the number of participants you expect so that we send you the appropriate amount of materials. You will also want to have plenty of pens and paper on hand,

plus scissors and paper for making origami whales. Consider having nametags available if you expect a lot of people to attend.

7. Remind your attendees.

The best way to ensure a successful party is to remind people to come. Usually the “law of halves” applies for events like this: you should only expect half of the people who sign up for an event to actually show up. It’s not because they don’t want to be there, but because we all lead busy lives and can’t do everything we sometimes think we can. But you can always increase your show-up rate by giving people reminder emails and especially phone calls. In your reminder email or phone call, be sure to include the date, time, and location of your party.

8. During the Party

Your main responsibility once people arrive is to manage the flow of the evening. While allowing room for changes, try to stick to your original agenda.

Don’t worry if this is your first time hosting a party like this. You just need to play the video and help get discussion going. Your guests are all there because they want to help make a difference, so they won’t care if you don’t get things perfect.

If you have a digital camera, you may want to assign someone to take photos so that you can stay focused on your party host role.

Each party should set a goal for how many signatures you can get in your community. This spring we plan to deliver thousands of postcards telling Gorton’s to do what they can to stop whaling.

Before everyone leaves, you can hold a quick meeting to make arrangements to go “postcarding” sometime that week. See the “Postcarding & Petitioning” guide in the Whale Activist Kit to get ideas on how to organize your own event.

9. After the Party

After your event, thank folks for coming. A quick follow-up thank you note is always appreciated. Just a quick email will do the trick. Use this thank you note as a reminder of the date, time and location of your postcarding or petitioning event.

We would like to hear how your party went, also. Send us a quick report on how your party went, including the highlights. Just email us at whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org. If you were able to take a digital photo of your party, please send it to us as well.

10. Send us your postcards and petitions

We plan to deliver to Gorton’s thousands and thousands of postcards, petitions and origami whales prior to the International Whaling Commission meeting in June. We have over 100,000 signatures so far, and we want to double that number in the next two months. Your efforts are key in helping us reach this goal. Be sure to send your signed postcards, petitions and origami whales by May 15th to Greenpeace at 702 H Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20001.

GROUND RULES FOR EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Participating in house parties and day of action events is fun, easy and makes a difference. We only ask that you follow a few simple guidelines.

Attendees agree to:

- Respect everyone's time by coming to the event on time.
- Cooperate with the host and follow his/her instructions.
- Confirm that you have read and agree to the agreement below.
- Most importantly, Greenpeace is a peaceful organization rooted in the Gandian traditions of peaceful protest and dedicated to exposing environmental problems while bringing about a better tomorrow for us and our children. As an individual participating in public events, or other activities, we expect that you act in accordance with the rich legacy of peaceful social movements by highlighting problems without aggression towards others or their property.

GROUND RULES FOR EVENT HOSTS

If you can plan and manage an event on your own or with a few friends then you can make an enormous contribution to protecting the environment. There are many people in communities across the country taking initiative to set up events. By creating an event, you are agreeing to serve as the host of the event.

Your responsibilities as host include:

- Ensuring that all the necessary materials are brought to the event.
- Contacting and communicating with the people who participate in your event.
- Filing a quick post-meeting report.

I agree to the hosting ground rules for this event. I understand that I am not authorized to act as an agent of Greenpeace. I understand that I am coordinating my event independently from Greenpeace and that Greenpeace shall not be responsible for the conduct of any other volunteer or participant. I hereby release Greenpeace and each of its present and former officers, directors, employees, agents, and affiliates from any liability that may arise from my participation, including from transportation to or from any location or from the acts or omissions of other persons. I agree to the above statement, and also attest that:

I am at least 18 years of age. Or I am the parent or legal guardian of the person volunteering for Greenpeace events, who is between the ages of 15 and 17, and I am making this statement on behalf of him or her.