

# Luau



*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it,  
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in  
them.*

*Psalm 96:11-12a*

## It's Tiki Time!

*"We have a beach themed, luau party every year in the late spring for respite. It is great for all of the families to be able to get together and just play together."*

*- a PURE volunteer*

One can barely stand on a beach gazing out at the ocean and not feel in awe at the splendor and majesty of God's creation. But beach vacations can be out of reach for PURE families because of financial restraints, medical issues and a myriad of other issues. Invite the whole family along for a fun event that makes the beach a reality without the expense.

### Decorations

A luau or beach themed respite can be one of the easiest events to decorate. Almost everyone has colorful beach towels and assorted pool toys they can contribute to set a festive and tropical environment in your ministry space.

- Beach towels and beach



balls or inflatable swim rings hung from ceiling

- Colorful paper lanterns
- Colorful plastic table cloths and tropical decorations from your local dollar store
- Luau decorations are plentiful at Oriental Trading

**P** Perfectly created by a loving sovereign God, designed for His purposes

**U** Unique in his or her own gifts, blessings, talents, desires and contributions

**R** Receptive and responsive to our communication, touch and acts of love

**E** Eternal: there are no disabled souls

## Spiritual Lesson

Supplies: Bible, assorted flowers, shells, sand or other beach item

Say: **Tonight we are having a special kind of party called a Luau. It is kind of like a beach party.** Ask if anyone has ever been to the beach. Allow them to share the kind of things they saw at the beach. If any of those items match the objects that you collected allow them to display those items.

Say: **The beach is a very special place. It is where the waters of the ocean meet the land that we live on. In God's Book, the Bible, it says that God created the heavens and the earth. It tells us how he made the oceans and seas, as well as the land we live on. All of this is his creation.** Read Psalm 95: 3-5.

Say: **God made the world – the mountains, the sea, the forests, the beach, the deserts, the rivers – all for our pleasure and enjoyment! Do you know what else he made? He made you and me. And then he gave us good friends like the ones we have here tonight to enjoy his wonderful creation with. Lets enjoy all of his creation together at our Luau.** Close in prayer.

### Craft Ideas

It wouldn't be a luau without floral leis for everyone present. These can be easily made either by using inexpensive artificial flowers or by making a flower template on cardstock, which can be pre-cut. Simply cut string in 36" – 40" lengths to string your flowers on. Use colored straws cut in 1" lengths to serve as spacers between your flowers. See more detailed instructions on making your own leis on our Luau Respite Theme board on Pinterest.

A fun luau or beach themed craft idea is to purchase inexpensive flip-flops and

decorate them with assorted gems and ribbon.

### Snacks

A luau theme allows for all kinds of creativity when it comes to themed snacks for your respite event. One healthy alternative is assorted fruit. Popsicles, fruit bars or smoothies are another fun choice – especially if you are spending time outdoors on a warm evening at your event. Since a luau usually happens beachside, something as simple as Goldfish Crackers is also fun.

Be sure to consider allergies and specialized dietary needs

(gluten free, casein free, low sugar, etc.) and offer an alternative snack. Applesauce and mandarin orange cups are good snacks to always have on hand. Remember that some participants will need to use a straw to drink so have them on hand as well. Clearly mark name tags so that volunteers can easily identify dietary needs.

We would love to hear your ideas about this theme on our Network Member Center Discussion Forum.

Follow us on Pinterest for links to more ideas.

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## Fun & Games

Add games to your luau with few supplies. Play Pass the Coconut by passing a plastic or real coconut around a circle while playing music. When the music stops, the one holding the coconut is out.

Limbo is another fun alternative. Using a broomstick or other long pole, everyone limbo to your favorite Hawaiian inspired music and see who can go the lowest.

No luau is complete without the Hula. Gather some hula hoops for a contest to see who can keep it going the longest.

Play Pool Noodle Javelin by hanging hula hoops from tree branches (or having volunteers hold them to the side) and having everyone aim a pool noodle like a javelin. The person with the most noodles through the hoop is the winner.

## Theme Stations

Have a station set up for the Seashell Guessing Game. Collect seashells of all sizes and place them in a clear container. Have everyone visit this station to guess how many shells are in

the jar. Give a special prize to the winner.

If spending any time outdoors, a water balloon toss can be lots of fun for Buddies.

## Activity Stations

Be sure to keep some activities the same at each event. Soon PURE friends and buddies alike will have a list of the favorite things they do at every respite event. Here are a few ideas:

- Lego Station
- Nail Salon
- Puzzles & Board Games
- Video Games
- Sensory Stations

## Sensory Stations

Both sand and water play are excellent additions to a Luau theme. For water play inside, remember to use a tile surface for easy clean up. A small child's pool makes an excellent outside sensory bin for water or sand play. Collect buckets, shovels, shells, plastic fish and other assorted toys to "hide" in the sensory bin.

Parties can be over-stimulating at times. Don't forget to have a Quiet Room designated as a place away from all the excitement where PURE friends can relax and take a break. Include low lighting and comfy seating for optimal relaxation!

Another calming sensory activity is blowing bubbles. The deep inhalation required to make the bubbles can have a calming affect. Either outdoors or in a quiet room, bubbles often bring instant happiness and joy.

## Supply List:

- Snack supplies
- String, straws, and artificial or paper flowers for making leis
- Seashells and container
- Sensory bin supplies
- Bubbles
- Hula hoops, plastic coconut
- Assorted beach and pool items for decorations and games