

CHOOSING A THEME

Ideas for Appropriate Themes

Cereal Box Characters	Halloween	Under the Sea	Hometown Throwdown	Ugly Sweaters
Decades	Back to School	All American	Fire and Ice	When I Grow Up
Safari	Rock n' Roll	Ski Lodge	Flannel and Floral	Four Seasons
Hippies vs. Hipsters	Out of this World	Fairy Tale	You are What You Netflix	Alice in Wonderland
Super Heroes	Dynamic Duos	Star Wars	Olympics	Thrift Store
Sports Theme	Disney	Yacht Club	Construction	Caves and Waves

Appropriate Event Theme Guide:

USD is a campus dedicated to preparing leaders dedicated to ethical conduct and compassionate service. Our Fraternity and Sorority Life hold the core values of social justice and high social standards. How do we create event themes that are aligned with the mission and values of USD Fraternity and Sorority Life?

What to think about before choosing an event theme:

- Is the theme about a living culture? Be mindful that there are people who live and practice that culture. Anything other than a serious representation of the culture is likely to be disrespectful.
- Is it about a current subculture? Does the theme reflect a certain racial group, gender, or economic class? Your ideas of representation might be highly sensationalized or stereotypical due to media portrayals or generalizations.
- What do you expect the reactions to your theme will be? Consider consulting with the university staff, the executive board, or the alumni of your chapter. If you are afraid of the possible reactions, then you probably shouldn't choose that theme. Would you be willing to send photos of the event to your parents, your national headquarters, or campus administrators?
- Does this theme lend itself to objectification?
- Could this theme be taken out of context?

Tips for creating better themes:

- Create a more general theme--for example, a "rainforest" themed event instead of a specific geographic location. This can help avoid inappropriate events and make it easier for your members to be creative!
- Remember to title your event something inclusive and appropriate as well as share event expectations with chapter members and all guests.