

# Party Ideas and Pool Games

Swimming pools tend to attract parties and people in search of a good time. Following are some decorating tips and pool activities that will make your pool party one to be remembered.

## Backyard Decorating Tips

Decorations and music really help to set the mood. For afternoon parties, crepe paper and other decorations really can add to the feel of the party. Party and craft stores, such as Hobby Lobby, are an excellent source for these festive decorations. Paper products, such as plates, cups and napkins are also available in pool or holiday themes. For evening parties, try stringing Christmas lights along the fence and in the trees and shrubbery. Music (such as patriotic music on July 4th) really adds meaning to the pool party and is available at music stores.

The important thing to remember is that planning and delegation are the keys to having a successful poolside party that even you, the host, can enjoy.

## Pool Games

We are all familiar with pool games such as relay races, Marco Polo and chicken fights, but following are some that you might not be familiar with:

### Swimming Games

#### Steal the Bacon

Form 2 teams of an equal amount of players and each team numbers off. Each team sits at the opposite end of the pool. A non-player then throws a ball (nerf, tennis, or ping pong balls work well) to the middle of the pool and calls a number belonging to a member of each team. The players whose numbers were called race to retrieve the ball and take it to their side of the pool without being caught by the other player. A player successfully returning the ball to his side receives 2 points and a player successfully catching the opponent receives 1 point. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

#### Ping-Pong Race

We have all played games similar to this one, but probably not in the pool. For this race, players line up

at one end of the pool with a ping pong ball. The goal is to blow the ping pong ball, without touching it, to the other end of the pool. The player whose Ping-Pong ball reaches the end of the pool first wins.

#### Floating Ball Pick-Up Race

This game is played on top of the water using floating objects such as Ping-Pong balls or tennis balls. It is important to have several dozen of these balls. It is best to mark the balls so that they represent different point totals. Someone puts all of the balls in the pool. When the race begins, participants try to get as many balls in a predetermined short amount of time. When the time is up, add up the balls or point totals, document the score, and continue playing several rounds until someone reaching the predetermined point total is declared the winner.

### Tag Games

#### Sharks and Minnows

This game is good for a large group. One person is the shark and starts in the middle of the pool. All other players are minnows and start out of the water on one side of the deck. The shark yells out "minnow!" and the minnows must jump in and try to swim to the other side of the pool without being tagged by the shark. The minnows that get tagged become sharks and the game is replayed until only one minnow remains. That person starts the new game as the shark.

#### Towel Tag

All players place a towel or any other item that can be balanced on their head. One person is designated as the chaser. The chaser attempts to tag the other players. Whoever is tagged becomes the new chaser. If a player loses the towel that is balanced on their head while being chased, that player becomes the new chaser.

#### Chicken Fight Tag

This is also called horse and rider tag. Player's pair up and ride piggyback. One pair is designated the chaser. Only the rider can be tagged or can tag. The chaser pursues other pairs until a rider is tagged, then they become the new chaser.

#### Shark-Shark!

You have probably played this game, but it is still a good one. One participant is the shark and gets in the

middle of the pool, while the other participants get on the other end of the pool. When the shark yells out "Shark-Shark"! all other participants must get to the other side of the pool without being tagged by the shark. Tagged participants become sharks. The last remaining participant is the winner.

### Races

#### Chicken Fight Races

This is also called horse and rider races. Player's pair up and ride piggyback. All participants are lined up on one end and race. The team reaching the finish line first wins.

#### Leap Frog Race

This was played by most everyone in PE classes in elementary school and is probably even more fun in a pool. The teams line up, and the last players in line are the frogs. The other participants get in a crouched position with their hands on their thighs or knees. The frogs then jump over each teammate in front of them and then become crouched. The last person in the line then becomes the frog. This is continued until the end of the pool is reached, with the team reaching the end first winning the race.

#### Inner Tube Race

This is fairly self-explanatory. Each participant sits in an inner tube at one end of the pool; someone says go and the participants race to the other end of the pool.

### Sport Games

#### Volleyball

Volleyball games are available at Gohlke Pools. Some pool owners purchase a regulation net and anchor it to fence posts, trees, etc. allowing the net to cross over the pool. Either way, it is a great game for larger groups.

#### Basketball

Basketball goals are available at Gohlke Pools. This game is better for small groups.

#### Baseball

Typically it is played in the shallow end of the pool with bases being approximately 10'-15' apart. Typically, a ball hit out of the far end of the pool is a homerun.

#### Football

This game is self-explanatory and is also quite fun.