Need Ideas?

Not sure what to bring? Here are some ideas for every skill level. Have ideas to add? Let us know!

Reminders:

⇒ We feed some 150 people; please multiply the recipes so you're making 24+ servings. More is better!
⇒ We can keep things warm (mostly) but we can't reheat; please bring things at serving temperature.
⇒ Do's: Foil or disposable containers, proteins, carbs, softer foods
⇒ Don'ts: Soups, hard crunchy foods, highly seasoned or spicy foods
⇒ Tip: Let the host know what you're bringing so we have enough and there's a good variety.

Pre-Portioned Foods to Serve at Lunch

Egg Cups

Easy to make egg cups in muffin tins. Endlessly customizable--don't cook with pork? Use Iserno's breakfast chicken sausage instead. Want to make it veggie? Think quiche vibes--spinach and feta. Etc! Grease the tins well and release into a disposable pan to bring to the luncheon. Double, triple or quadruple this recipe.

Try these or these

Sliders

Sliders are mini sandwiches that are easy for us to serve on a plate. Buy some dinner rolls or mini buns. Add anything! Egg salad, lunch meats, pulled meats, rotisserie chicken, meatballs, cheese, veggie patties--up to you!! Pile in a tray and drop on by!

Check this page out

Meatballs

So easy---Costco has mega bags in their freezer. Cook them in your crockpot, instapot or on the stove.

These are delicious, don't judge 'til you try them!

Quick and easy?

*Go to Costco and get some **party wings** from the freezer section. Heat them up and bring them in! Or get some Costco **hot dogs**, grill them up, put them in the pan hot and cover with foil. Costco **pot stickers**--have you had them? Yum. Boil, slide in a pan, add a little oil (to keep them from sticking), toss with some soy sauce and top with green onions (optional! You do you). A big ham or some such; just slice it up in advance.*

Casseroles

Pasta and Protein

Mac and Cheese is delicious, yes please. But here are some ways to mix it up. Multiply these recipes for 24+ servings.

Cheesy Baked Pasta with Sausage and Ricotta Sauté up a ton of Italian sausage (pork, chicken or turkey), mix everything together and bake. Multipy 4-6x. If you don't have NYT Cooking, text Naomi to get gift access, or ask google for something similar.
Hamburger Casseroles. So.Many.To.Choose.From. I'm hungry right now. Just don't make it soupy. We can't handle soupy. Multipy 4-6x.
Mac N Cheese with hot dogs or hamburger. More protein! Multiply 4-5x.
Tuna Casserole. I associate tuna casserole with Hebrew school growing up. And not in a good way. But here you go. I will say, I was intensely jealous of families who topped theirs with potato chips. It might have been a game changer. But who knows.

Enchilada Casserole

Just like enchiladas but easier.

Try this or this. Here's a black bean one. On the mild side of spice please! Don't forget to multiply these recipes for a crowd!

Rice and Protein Casseroles

You get the idea by now. And have we mentioned that you'll want to multiply these? Math practice for your students?

Cajun red beans and rice, Creamy chicken and rice (try using shredded rotisserie chicken), Chicken fried rice (or beef, or pork, or tofu...), Southwest chicken and bean casserole, Spinach feta and rice casserole, etc

Bean and Lentil Dishes

Beans and lentils are packed with protein, fiber and nutrition. Super easy to use canned, but if you start with dry beans, it's even more economical.

Here's a vegetarian chickpea casserole, a vegetarian lentil loaf, creamy Tuscan white bean pasta mid-way down this page,

Vegetables and Beans

Roasted Vegetables

Roasted carrots, broccoli, potatoes, cauliflower, are easy to make in big batches. In fall, Costco has big bags of cut up butternut squash--easy peasy. Think LOTS--veggies shrink in the oven.

Salady Stuff

Potato salads, Taco Salad for a Crowd, chickpea salad, corn salad... Just not too crunchy

To Go Snacks

Sandwiches

Make a bunch, e.g. PBJ, lunch meats, cheeses. Pack individually in plastic or paper sandwich bags..

Hardboiled Eggs

You can cook a ton of hardboiled eggs in your InstantPot. Or just boil them. No need to shell them.

Cookies To Go

Package 1 or 2 in plastic or paper individual baggies to go.

Non Consumables

Toilet Paper

Toilet paper, toilet paper, toilet paper. There's never enough to meet the need.

Men's Clothing and Items

***Men's work clothing**. Clean wearable work clothes, think **construction and day labor, not offices** –jeans, khakis, t-shirts, hoodies, shorts. Clean (preferably new) socks. New underwear/boxers are always in demando. No pajamas or robes. Please consider purchasing some items at Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, or other thrift stores; even Amazon sells multi-packs of tees and underwear that work out to only two or three dollars per item.*

Women's Items, Kids' Clothing, Toys

Women's hygiene items, individually wrapped. Children's clothing and toys are always needed.

Camping Equipment and Tarps

*Any kind of **camping equipment** (sleeping bags, tents, backpacks, sleeping pads) and especially **Tarps** are always requested by our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Blankets are always needed, but not comforters, crocheted afghans, pillows, or other heavy bedding.*

Pantry Items

***Non-perishable food** is also gratefully accepted for the pantry tables – please consider ready-to-eat items, as many unsheltered folks have no easy way to cook. If you're bringing cans, see if you can bring ones with pop-top lids instead of ones that require a can opener.*