



An Off-Campus Guide to Safe and Responsible Parties

Party Smart!

When you live off campus, it is important to remember that you are a Bethlehem resident and you must treat your neighbors with consideration. Giving occasional parties can sometimes cause problems with otherwise friendly neighbors. To avoid being a bad neighbor and host, here are a few tips to a successful and safe party:

Before the party:

- Invite a manageable number of guests and know who you are inviting. Do not publicize the event.
- Talk to your neighbors before the party and encourage them to call if there is a problem. The most common reason police come to a party is complaints from neighbors. Keep the party indoors and the windows closed, if possible.
- Let your neighbors know when the party will end and that you will be cleaning up the unwanted trash the following day.

During the party:

- Know your guests, feel free to turn people away that you don't know or are intoxicated. Do not collect money.
- Provide non-alcoholic beverages, as well as food, for your guests.
- Do not serve minors alcohol. You will be held responsible for any underage drinking that goes on in your house or apartment.
- No one should leave your house with a cup, empty or full.
- Be sure designated individuals stays sober the entire party to monitor for noise or other problems.
- Keep windows closed; periodically walk around the outside of your house/apartment to check the noise level.
- Don't let anyone drive home intoxicated.
- Don't have a lot of guests leave at the same time – this creates noise and draws attention to your party.
- If the police are called and should appear at your door, remember to be polite and cooperative.

After the party:

- Contact your neighbors and thank them for their cooperation.
- Clean up any trash associated with your party the next day.



What draws the police to a party?

- A complaint from neighbors
- Noise that can be heard on the street
- Individuals carrying open containers in public
- Large numbers of people going in and out
- Cash being exchanged for alcohol
- Someone leaving your party noisy, intoxicated and /or urinating in public



Possible penalties for the Lehigh party goer:

Offences involving violation of Lehigh policies related to alcohol use will result in:

1. The University notifying the parents/guardians of students found responsible for any violation of University alcohol policies.
2. While disciplinary suspension is an option for any single serious alcohol violation, individuals found responsible for two serious alcohol violations will be suspended for a minimum of one semester.

Did you know...?

No matter what your age is, in Bethlehem, it is illegal to carry or possess any open container of alcohol in a public place.

Individuals under the age of 21 can be cited for possession of alcohol if they are found in a motor vehicle with alcohol – even if someone in the vehicle is 21 or older.

In Pennsylvania – Lying about your age to obtain alcohol, purchasing, consuming or transporting alcohol, and/or carrying a fake ID card – carry a mandatory suspension of driver's license in addition to a fine.

If you are an adult and convicted of knowingly selling or furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor, you face penalties of:

1. A minimum of \$1,000 fine for a first offense
2. A \$2,500 fine for a second offense and up to one year in jail

In Pennsylvania, the legal age for alcohol consumption, possession and transportation is 21.

