

# Packet Riders

## Packetville Networking Party

Here's your chance to invite all of your friends to Packetville. Maybe you'll do it for a special occasion like a birthday, Valentine's Day, the end-of-the-school year, or just because you and your friends would like to get together for a fun event.

With Packetville as the theme of your party, think of what your decorations might look like. Look at the backgrounds in the Peter and Penny Packet Games and the Packetville homepage for some ideas.

Would you ask invitees to come in costume? They might come as Peter, Penny, Hacker, Ping, Byte, Server, Router, Query, Electron, or Sequencer. Or, you might suggest comfortable, casual clothing. Costumes aren't necessary to have fun.

Whether the Packet Riders are in costume or not, take digital pictures during the party so that you can show them at school and home. You might even send your best shots to local newspapers with a paragraph describing your Packetville Networking Party. You'll be famous when the papers print your picture with a caption such as: "Local students take on networking through their Packet Riders Club. During a recent party, Packet Riders decoded messages and faced challenges that were solved with their knowledge of how the Internet works.

For party favors, think about what you might create using the graphics of the Characters <Packet Riders>Characters>. You might make stickers, magnets, candy wrappers, party hats, or prize cards with pictures of the characters on them. Remember that you can also import these graphics into software applications like Print Shop or PrintArtist that already have templates for creating all kinds of party goods.

Be creative with the refreshments. Maybe you'll have Internet Packetville picnic treats with packet chips, Electron's cookies, Penny's peppermint drinks, Byte's homemade hotdogs, Peter's packet rolls, and Hacker's secret recipes. Everything should be byte-sized and ready to carry on missions.



Packetville party games should include challenges to see who is best at the Peter and Penny games, coded messages that challenge everyone's gray cells, board games featuring the Peter and Penny cast of characters, and Networking Quiz Shows.

**Secret Messages:** You and your friends will have a great time creating secret coded messages that can be given to all Packet Riders who attend the party.

**Packet Rider Board Games:** Making up a board game is not difficult. Model it after other board games, and design any materials such as the board, cards, and player pieces that you'll need for the game. You can also alter an old board game that you no longer play, but make sure you have permission from an adult before you begin. Decide upon the directions before the game begins and make sure everyone knows them.

**Networking Quiz Show:** Have one of the Packet Riders be the quiz show host who will ask questions, one be an official timekeeper, and one be a scorekeeper. The competition during the quiz will probably be more fun if it is between two teams, so you'll need to divide your Packet Riders into teams. Have lots of questions and answers ready ahead of time so that the host will have enough questions for the show. Go through the Peter and Penny games and jot down ideas for questions. You can make your quiz show like a game where participants answer the questions or you can make it like a television show where they make up a question to go with an answer. Don't forget to have some prizes for the winners.



Here is one idea for running the quiz: When the host asks a question, the first person who raises his or her hand will be given a certain amount of time to answer. The scorekeeper will decide whose hand went up first. The timekeeper will give the Packet Riders 15 seconds to begin the answer. If there is no answer in 15 seconds or if the answer is wrong, the host will call on a Packet Rider from the other team. If the question isn't answered correctly, the host will announce the answer and move onto the next question. The scorekeeper will give one point to a team for every correct answer.

After the Packetville Party, don't forget to thank the parent or teacher who sponsored the party, and help with the clean-up!

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