

PARTY PARTNERS

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY:

- CSU STUDENT RESOLUTION CENTER
- CSU OFF-CAMPUS LIFE
- CITY OF FORT COLLINS NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
- FORT COLLINS POLICE SERVICES

1

THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU GAIN:

- 

INFO/CONTEXT ABOUT NOISE IN FORT COLLINS
- 

TIPS TO AVOID FUTURE CITATIONS
- 

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

2

THINKING ABOUT THE SITUATION THAT GOT YOU HERE...

- When was your party? (Time of year, day of the week, time of day)
- Where was the party? (Apartment, house, etc.)
- About how many people were there?
- What type of citation did you receive (if you received a citation)?
- Was your party registered?

3

DID YOU KNOW...



Fort Collins' noise ordinance is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!



Officers consider whether noise is reasonable for the given time and circumstance, not based on a specific time of day/night

4

FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE WHETHER NOISE IS UNREASONABLE:

- The time of day
 - For example, the noise from mowing your lawn at 3:00pm is reasonable, but not so much at 3:00am!
- The type of noise
 - Music, screaming/yelling, sports, etc. all have different impacts
- The distance the noise travels
- The type of neighborhood you're in
 - Apartments, long-term residents, single-family homes, etc.

5

The possible maximum fine (per resident) for a 1st time Unreasonable Noise Violation is over \$2650!

Most fines will not be that high, but it depends on the circumstances of the incident itself and your response



Your cooperation goes a long way!

If police respond to your gathering, working with them to clear it out will likely have a more positive outcome when you go to court.

DID YOU KNOW...

6

NUISANCE GATHERING ORDINANCE



Noise + problems (such as trash, public urination) on or off private property.



Are underage people drinking at your party?
That may also constitute a nuisance gathering

7

SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE

- Holds hosts responsible for providing a space in which underage possession/consumption of alcohol or marijuana is occurring
- Host does not have to provide the alcohol/marijuana to be held responsible
- Non-criminal (civil) infraction
- \$100 fine

8

PARTY PATROL

- Additional Fort Collins police officers on patrol in nearby neighborhoods during times of year when the most parties occur:
 - Halloween
 - Beginning of fall semester
 - End of spring semester
- Party patrol officers strictly focus on parties (both proactively and in response to noise calls) so that other officers can focus on other calls for service

9

DID YOU KNOW...

The minimum fine for a nuisance gathering citation is \$500!

Fines generally start at \$1000 and can be lowered depending on a number of factors (cooperation, size of party, etc.) but they won't fall below \$500

10

WHY AREN'T MORE WARNINGS GIVEN?

- In Fort Collins, a lot of warnings ARE given!
 - These can be formal (through dispatch if your party is registered) or informal (verbal warning from an officer or referral to CSU)
- Officers have a high call volume
- Warnings may not be an effective way of changing behavior in the long term

11

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR WHEN POLICE ARRIVE?



Police may return the following day to speak with you/your roommates



Officers may also use other methods to get in touch with you—contacting landlords, etc.



A lack of cooperation only escalates the situation and makes it more likely you'll get a ticket! Your best bet is always to answer the door and have a conversation with the officer.

12

DID YOU KNOW...

- You are legally required to give your ID to a police officer if they are conducting an investigation and/or have reasonable suspicion that a crime is being committed
- If they are investigating your party, you are required to identify yourself!
- Failure to provide ID will likely escalate the situation and may result in obstruction charges

13

WHAT IS A RIOT?



A group of 3 or more people + property damage



It all depends on the circumstances!
Gatherings can shift into riots very quickly



You can receive a ticket for simply watching a riot, if you choose to stay after being ordered by police to leave

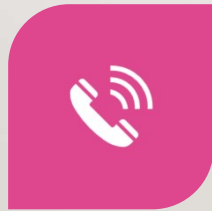
14

DID YOU RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGES FROM YOUR LANDLORD/PROPERTY MANAGER?

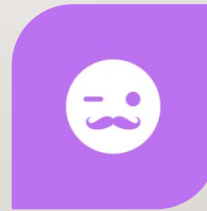
- The Public Nuisance Ordinance in Fort Collins holds property owners accountable for certain standards
- Violations follow property, not tenants!
- If violations exceed the following, the city may take action against the property owner:
 - 2 of the same violations in 6 months
 - 3 of any kind of violation in 1 year
 - 5 of any kind of violation in two years

15

HELPFUL PARTY HINT #1: BUILD POSITIVE RAPPORT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!



GIVE THEM YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND
ASK FOR THEIRS. GET TO KNOW THEM!



WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE OVER, THEY
MAY BE WILLING TO TEXT OR CALL IF
THINGS ARE GETTING TOO LOUD.

16

HELPFUL PARTY HINT #2: DISCUSS PARTY ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS!



How many people will be invited?



How will the party be promoted?



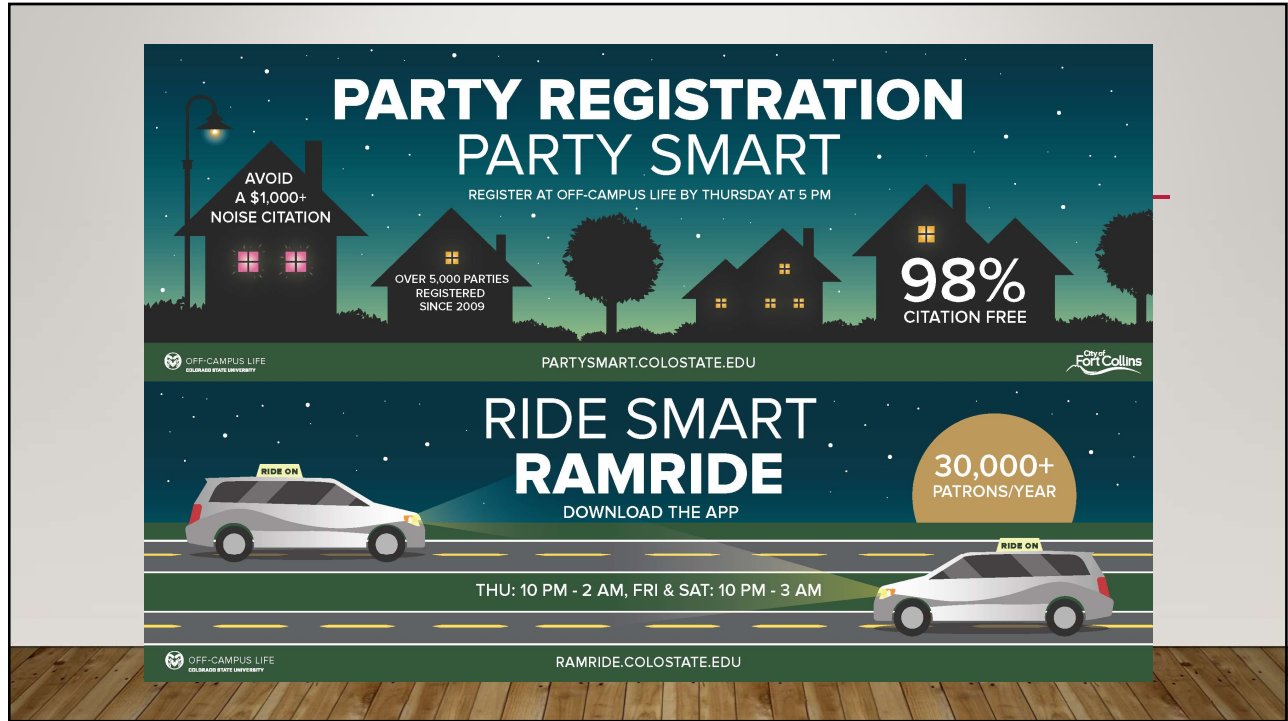
Who will be the sober host?

17

HELPFUL PARTY HINT #3: REGISTER YOUR PARTY!

- Registrations are available via both CSU Off-Campus Life and the City of Fort Collins. All residents (students and non-students) can register!

18



19

DID YOU KNOW...

Police officers on patrol are NOT given a list of registered parties in their jurisdiction!

- FCPS dispatch keeps the list of registered parties, so that officers can check if a given party is registered if there's a need.

20

PARTY REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Parties can be registered for any night of the week
- All parties must be register the THURSDAY BEFORE the party (so, Thursday parties must be register a week before).
- Warning system information:
 - If a warning is received, must wait 30 days to register and 90 days after any subsequent warning.
 - Receiving a Noise or Social Host citation means you can't register for 90 days...A second one mean no registration until Aug 1st.
 - Receipt of a Nuisance Gathering citation means no more registration for 1 year from the incident.

21

HELPFUL PARTY HINT #4: DON'T POST IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

People posting the address/photos of the party can attract unwanted guests to your home and cause your party to get out of control

22

HELPFUL PARTY HINT #5: CALL FOR HELP!

- Call the police non-emergency line for help if your party gets out of control!
- Officers will respond and assist you in breaking up the party, if you are proactive about calling
- Keep in mind they'll ask ALL guests to go home—they're not your bouncers 😊
- Non-emergency police phone number: 970-419-3273

23

HELPFUL PARTY HINT #6:

Call for help if someone at your party needs medical attention!

- If someone at your party is too intoxicated, both CSU and law enforcement have options for working with you if you seek help for them and remain on scene.
- <https://resolutioncenter.colostate.edu/responsible-action-exemption/>

24

WHAT WILL YOU DO DIFFERENTLY IN THE FUTURE?



WHAT MIGHT HAVE GONE WRONG IN THE SITUATION THAT GOT YOU HERE?

WHAT STRATEGIES CAN YOU USE TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE?

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THIS SITUATION?