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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Throw your own party for Indiana's Bicentennial year!**

*The Indiana Bicentennial Commission's guide to a Bicentennial Birthday Bash*

**Indianapolis, Ind., (November 10, 2016)** – Want to celebrate Indiana's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday with your family and friends before the year is through? We have just the thing to help you out – a Bicentennial Birthday Bash! From food, to games to decorations we have all the bases covered. Get your guest list ready, this will be the party of the century. You can find an interactive version of the Bicentennial Birthday Bash guide on the [Indiana Bicentennial Commission website](#). For more details on crafts and recipes, visit the Indiana Bicentennial Commission [Pinterest page](#).

We hope that you will share this list in entirety or in pieces with your readers. Attached you will find a variety of photos that you can use in conjunction with the story. Please give photo credit to Indiana Bicentennial Commission Deputy Director Rene Stanley. Thank you for your consideration!

**Decorations**

Like with any birthday party, you won't want to skimp on the decorations. Your color scheme is easy enough, blue and yellow in honor of Indiana's state flag! You'll have your balloons and streamers, but how about some less traditional decorations? We have a few ideas for you:

- Confetti balloons
  - What you'll need: clear balloons, blue and yellow confetti
  - Give your balloons a festive flair by adding confetti! Sprinkle the confetti inside the balloon, blow it up and shake it around for the best affect. Now you're ready to hang up your masterpiece.
- Tassel Garland
  - What you'll need: tissue paper (1 sheet = 2 tassels), scissors, tape and string
  - First, fold each sheet of tissue paper in half, length-wise first and then again width-wise. After folding the tissue paper, cut strips into each fringe. Leave about one inch uncut at the fold line and try to keep each strip about the same width. Cut the fringed tissue paper in half, unfold it and roll it tightly down the middle crease. It gets tangled easily, so take your time! After you've finished rolling the tassel, fold it in half and twist the top to create a loop. Tape each tassel to prevent the loop from coming undone. Finally, string your tassels and hang them!
- Tissue paper party sign

- What you'll need: foam core, tissue paper (blue and yellow), liquid glue, something to cut with (box knife or something similar)
- 2016 is a big year for Indiana, so of course it should be part of the decorations – and this is one of the kiddos can help with! Outline your numbers (2, 0, 1 and 6) on the foam core and cut them out. Cut your tissue paper into small squares. Now for the fun part! Grab a tissue paper square, crinkle it up, dip the bottom in glue, stick it on the foam core. Now, get to sticking! Cover the foam core completely. When you're done you will have a one-of-a-kind sign!
- Indiana State Flag and Indiana Bicentennial Flag (big and small!)
  - This is an easy one. Hang up your flags and hand out the small flag to your guests. These flags can be purchased at the Indiana Historical Bureau!

### Food and Drink

It wouldn't be a true Hoosier party without some delicious local food and drink. Some of these are long-time Hoosier favorites, while some are contemporary. Mix and match, to create the best Bicentennial spread for your table.

- Wick's Sugar Cream Pie
  - This is the official Indiana pie so it has to have a guaranteed spot on your table! To order a Wick's Sugar Cream Pie call 800-642-5880.
- Popcorn Bar
  - Hoosiers love popcorn, most likely because of our ties to Orville Redenbacher. Celebrate this famous Hoosier by having a popcorn bar! Set out a large bowl of popped Orville Redenbacher popcorn and a variety of toppings. Try M&Ms, pretzels, sprinkles, red hots, and a variety of seasonings. Go as big as you want!
- Choc-Ola
  - Choc-ola is a throwback Indiana favorite. This sweet treat was produced from 1944 to 1985 and now its back! Visit [www.choc-ola.com](http://www.choc-ola.com) to find where to buy Choc-Ola near you!
- Bicentennial Punch
  - What you'll need: Blue Hawaiian Punch, Lemonade, yellow sugar crystals, 1 lemon
    - Mix one part blue Hawaiian Punch and one part prepared lemonade. Add sugar to the rim by using a lemon to wipe around the edge of the glass and dipping it in sugar crystals.
- Indiana cookies
  - What you'll need: An [Indiana-shaped cookie cutter](#), the ingredients for your favorite sugar cookie recipe
    - Make your favorite sugar cookie dough. Roll out the dough and use your Indiana cookie cutter to make a batch of Indiana-shaped cookies!
- Blue & Yellow Swirl Cookies
  - What you'll need: Blue food coloring, yellow food coloring, sprinkles, plastic wrap, ingredients for your favorite sugar cookies
    - Make a batch of your favorite sugar cookie dough. Split the dough into two bowls, add blue food coloring to one bowl and yellow to the other. Knead the food coloring into the dough and chill. On a lightly floured surface roll out each ball of dough to about ¼ inch thickness. Apply a little water to the blue dough using a pastry brush. Roll the yellow dough around the rolling pin and unroll it

on top of the blue dough. Trim the edge so you have a neat rectangle. Roll the dough from one of the wider ends. Once it's rolled, spill some sprinkles onto the counter. Brush the log of dough with water and roll it in the sprinkles. Wrap the dough in plastic and refrigerate for one hour. Next, slice the dough into rounds and bake according to your sugar cookie recipe. Voila, you have Indiana swirl cookies!

- For Adults 21+
  - Adults over the age of 21 can enjoy these Bicentennial drinks
    - Bicentennial Punch
      - Follow the recipe for Bicentennial Punch. Try adding spirits from a local Indiana distillery such as Hotel Tango's Golf Gin or Victor Vodka. Other distilleries in locations around the state include: Cardinal Spirits, Bourbon Street Distillery, Heartland Distillery, Kinsmen Distillery and Hunt Club Distillery.
    - Champagne Velvet
      - This is the beer with the "Million Dollar Flavor" by Upland Brewing Co. The recipe is originally from 1902, and became the flagship Indiana brew. Upland reformulated the recipe – based on that same scrap of note paper that Walter Braun, its creator, used – and is proud to carry on the legacy of a true Midwestern legend. So, toast Indiana, take a cue from the countless Hoosiers who made this brew famous.

### **Put on some tunes**

It's no secret that there are some Hoosier greats in the music business. You've got Michael Jackson, John Mellencamp and Babyface, just to name a few. There are also some great songs about Indiana! You can be sure that the music at your Bicentennial Bash will be rockin'.

- Billie Jean – Michael Jackson
- Small Town – John Mellencamp
- Goin' Back to Indiana – Jackson 5
- Indiana – John McLaughlin
- Let's Hear it for the Boys – Deneice Williams
- Indiana Moon – Hunter Smith Band
- Indiana Sky – Josh Garrels
- November Rain – Guns N' Roses
- If I Can't Live for Love – Modoc
- Have a Little Faith in Me – John Hiatt
- Change the World – Kenneth 'Babyface' Edmonds
- No Rain – Blind Melon
- Back Home Again in Indiana – Jim Nabors
- On the Road – Houndsmouth
- Hang on Sloopy – The McCoys
- Pay Hoosier Hysteria – The Gizmos
- Can't Rock My Dream Face – Umphrey's McGee

### **Games and Crafts**

- Make your own party hats!

- All you need is plain party hats, paint, and pompoms. Have each guest paint their party hat. Let the hats dry for 10-15 minutes. Next, hot glue the pompoms (or other festive decorations) around the bottom of the hat and add one to the top! Let the hats sit for another 10-15 minutes and voila, your party hats are done!
- Charades
  - When your guests arrive have them write down three of their favorite Hoosiers. This could be a family member, a cartoon-character like Garfield, or a well-known Hoosier like Michael Jackson. When you're ready to play, take turns acting out these characters for a game that's sure to have the whole room in stitches.
- Pin the torch on the flag
  - On a cork board, create an Indiana state flag using blue and yellow construction paper. Cut out a torch for each of your guests. You know the drill from here! Take turns wearing a blind fold and trying to pin the torch where it belongs on the flag.
- Play musical chairs
  - Get that Indiana-themed playlist going for a game of musical chairs.
- Design your own state seal
  - You can download and print blank state seals on the Indiana Bicentennial Commission website, [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org). Print a copy for each of your guests and have a competition for the most creative design.
- Indiana trivia
  - 200 years is a long time to acquire trivia, so you will have plenty to choose from! Visit the Indiana Bicentennial website for a list of Indiana trivia, or you can hunt down your own! Split your guests into two teams for a bit of competition.