TEN WAYS TO HOST AN EPIC SUMMER BASH

Portland, OR – Summer is here and it's time for fun celebrations and parties! The Oregon Liquor Control Commission wants to remind party hosts that they are responsible for making sure the event is not only fun, but safe, too.

OLCC and Bacardi are partnering together for a public service announcement campaign on KGW and KGW.com to show how to have an Epic Summer by drinking responsibly and how drinking too much can lead to an Epic Fail. The campaign runs June 28 - July 22. The :15 PSAs can be found on OLCC’s Youtube page.

Having a “Few Too Many” and getting drunk can make you the party foul - but drinking responsibly and “Knowing Your Limit” can make you the life of the party.

“Super Zeros” have too much to drink and look like fools. But a “Party Hero” makes sure everyone gets home safe.

“We have beautiful summers in Oregon which make it a great time for folks to get together - especially outside,” says Tom Erwin, Government Affairs and Communications Director. “Unfortunately, when people have too much to drink, a party can spin out of control. We want people to have fun, be safe and have an Epic Summer.”

Whether you're planning a small BBQ with a few friends, or a large family reunion, the best way to make sure you enjoy an Epic Summer and not an Epic Fail is through careful planning. And, if you are serving alcohol at your party, here are ten epic party tips to keep your guests safe.

1. Make sure your guests have a safe ride home
Have designated drivers, collect a cab fare fund, have the phone number for the local cab company handy, or use public transportation.

2. Serve food and drinks
Always serve food with alcohol, don’t force drinks on your guests, stop serving alcohol one hour before the party ends and have non-alcoholic drink options available. Check out these great mocktail recipes for ideas!

3. Have a party action plan
Have a plan in place that guests and hosts can agree to uphold. Things to include are not encouraging excessive drinking, not serving alcohol to minors and offering non-alcoholic drinks.
4. Epic intervention techniques
Here are some great techniques for making sure your guests have a great time at your party without having too much to drink. Tips include how to remove a drink and what to do if an intoxicated friend tries to drive.

5. Recognize the signs of intoxication
Here are some common signs of visible intoxication. If a person shows just one or two of these signs, that does not necessarily mean the person is intoxicated. But if a person shows a combination of several signs, or has a sudden change in behavior, that could be a strong indication that the person is intoxicated. If you're not sure, don't serve.

6. Be aware of your liability as a host
Did you know that party hosts can be held legally responsible for injuries or damages that occur as a result of the alcohol provided your party? ORS 471.565 and ORS 471.410(3)

7. Don't serve alcohol to minors
Don't serve alcohol to minors. We've said it before, and we'll say it again. The legal drinking age is 21, and as a host it is your responsibility to make sure minors aren't drinking. Oregon's Alcohol Laws and Minors

8. Stay sober
An epic party host is a sober host. Limiting your own alcohol intake will allow you to better determine if a guest is sober enough to drive at the end of the night.

9. Don’t host your party alone
Have a trusted friend or family member help you. It's much easier to keep your party under control if you have co-hosts to help.

10. Open bar vs. designated server
Guests usually drink more when they can serve themselves. Free-pouring or guessing the amount of alcohol for drinks can lead to excessive drinking. Using a designated person (sober, of course) to mix or serve drinks can help keep your guests from consuming too much alcohol.

Go to KGW.com for your chance to win an Epic Summer prize giveaway from July 2 through 6.

"Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service"
Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than $343 million to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website

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