



# GET STARTED

YOUR MONEY  
YOUR LIFE



## Three affordable and yes—cool ideas for your next party

the   
**Birthday**  
issue

Birthday parties can be hard to get right. You want to do something fun that your friends will love without spending a fortune. Your best bet? Embrace the limits of your budget. CHECK IT OUT:

### GAME ON > Idea: Scavenger hunt

**DETAILS:** In this version of a scavenger hunt, you create a series of fun, interactive challenges for your guests to complete around town. Examples might include having a dance-off in public, or asking a stranger to join you in a sing-along.

Make sure you break your guests into teams, and record each challenge on your smartphone. The first team to complete the challenges within a time limit wins a prize.



### MAKE A SPLASH > Idea: Pool party

**DETAILS:** If you have a pool, your friends will probably love the chance to hang out in it (even when it's not your birthday). Plus, when you have a party at home, you avoid all the costs of hosting at a restaurant or other venue.



### OLD SCHOOL IS BEST > Idea: Sleepover

**DETAILS:** No matter how old you get, sleepovers are always fun. Whether you play games, stay up watching movies, or just hang out late, overnight birthdays are a great excuse to get some quality time with your BFFs.



# GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF FREE

BIRTHDAYS ARE THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO TREAT YOURSELF. BUT DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN BINGE ON YOUR FAVORITE THINGS WITHOUT SPENDING ANY MONEY?



## FREE FOOD

Many major restaurants and snack spots give away freebies on your special day. > *Research Applebee's, Baskin-Robbins, California Pizza Kitchen, and Starbucks.*



## FREE RETAIL DEALS

While you won't score entire wardrobes, some chains give you exclusive discounts. > *Research Old Navy, Sephora, CVS.*



## OTHER FREE STUFF

Full on free food? Hit your limit on reduced retail? Other companies offer birthday deals as well. > *Research Dave and Buster's, World Market, Cinemark Theatres.*

**FREE TIP!** YOU MAY HAVE TO SIGN UP FOR A COMPANY'S NEWSLETTER IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR BIRTHDAY DEAL.



To celebrate Financial Literacy Month, we're launching our **Snapchat** contest! Here's how it works:

- >> Follow us on **Snapchat** (username: elementsmoney)
- >> We'll post money-related Stories every week.
- >> When you see a special Reward Snap, take a screen shot. The first person to send it back to us (via chat) wins a gift card!

Follow elementsmoney on Snapchat now!  
You'll learn... You'll laugh...  
You'll get paid.

# How much should I spend on a birthday gift?

There is no one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to setting a gift budget. But here's a helpful chart to help you figure it out.



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