



Warm Cookies and Community

Every voice matters, and every voice is equal.

Warm Cookies and Community is a simple community building event based on story-telling. Many Local Listens groups are making this event a tradition during the winter months. There is generally a story-telling theme such as:

- Stories of gratitude
- Stories of your grandparents or great grandparents
- Stories of paying it forward
- Stories of the past, present, and future of our town (one community had fourth graders write “Tomorrows News Today” on their hopes for the community in the future)
- Stories of the unexpected

Things to keep in mind:

- Be a casual emcee: The person hosting the mic should not feel the need to fill lots of space with a story between each story. Be welcoming, thank story-tellers, allow for space between stories.
- Use a microphone: Lots of people are intimidated by microphones. We find it helps to normalize the mic, explain that it helps all of us—especially those who have a hard time hearing in crowds.
- Make it accessible! If the first story-teller is AMAZING that can be intimidating to others who feel like their story needs to be practiced. The unrehearsed can be just as interesting and entertaining! Stories tend to come to mind as folks listen to others so keep up the invitation to participate throughout the event.
- Ask a few folks to share a story in advance—but be clear this is not an extended presentation.
- Call us! We are happy to talk with you about this fun, simple, crowd pleasing community builder!

We are excited to offer our flyer design to all who want to host a Warm Cookies and Community Event. Call us and we can create it for you or share the fonts and templates. This design was created by Dave Sieks. Learn more about his work at <http://www.davidsieks.com/>.

