



## INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATION

*Yo Ho Ho, it's a pirate's life for me.* Your child may pretend to be his or her own pirate of the salty seas with a crew to take on adventures. If so, a great party theme that works well for both boys and girls is a pirate adventure that can transport them to a pirate ship of swashbuckling fun.

Looking for festive pirate thematic party ware? Visit the party goods section of your local Toys "R" Us store or go to [Toysrus.com](http://Toysrus.com).

For an invitation that you make and will hand-deliver, take yellow sheets of paper and burn the edges slightly. (Make sure that only adults use matches to burn the edges of the paper.) Write all of your party details and place them into clean, old-fashioned root beer bottles. Write your guests' names on the sticker labels in fancy pirate script and hand them out.

Add festive language to get the kids in the party mood:

*"Aaarghhh! Ye be invited to some birthday swashbucklin' fun at Pirate (child's name)'s bash. Chart yer course fer Pier (your address). / We be meetin' at (time) on (date) fer a pirate party./ Have yer grownup send message by yer phone to (number)."*

## DECORATIONS

Create the high seas in your party room by blowing up a sea of balloons in an array of blue, green, and pearl white colors.

Hang colorful paper fish from your ceiling using fishing wire. Also, create jellyfish by using solid green, blue, and yellow paper plates and attaching streamers in alternating colors to the bottom of the plates in varying lengths. Hang your jellyfish from the ceiling at varying lengths for added décor.

On the front door to your party, hang a skeleton decoration and create a sign that says *Enter At Yer Own Risk* in pirate scratch.



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At the front entrance, place a treasure chest to collect the party gifts. Use a large cardboard box with flaps that you tape down. Cut down from the top along one side, the front, and the other side several inches, leaving the back side uncut to use as a hinge. Decorate with paper, markers, faux gems, and glitter to look like a treasure chest. Place a sign on it that says *Keep Yer Hands Off!*

Make a pirate ship for the party by going to a local appliance store and getting a refrigerator box. Place the box on its side, cut one side off, and cut the other sides into a ship shape. Use the flaps from the top of the box to make a bow, and draw planks on the side to make it look like wood. Make a helm by cutting the wheel shape out of cardboard and bolting it to another piece of cardboard that is bent in half.

Pull out your old Halloween decorations, like skulls, crossbones, and cobwebs, and use these to decorate the rest of the party area.

Alternatively, you can keep with nautical decorations of fish, nets, lobsters, and crabs. However, a combination of Halloween and nautical decorations would be ideal for mischief-making pirates.

Spread beads and faux jewelry and gems around your treasure chest and across the party table to showcase the pirate's loot.

Use a large net as a table cover.

### GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival to the party, provide the kids with a red bandana to place around their heads, an eye patch to wear, and a large earring to clip on. While you wait for everyone to arrive, have the kids decorate felt pirate hats with stick-on gems. The kids can wear these during the party and take them home as a goody too.

Ask your guests to talk like pirates during the party.

Make pirate flags. Cut out felt into flag shapes and let the kids use markers, glitter glue, and faux gems to create their own individual flags.

Host a Pirate Treasure Hunt

For very young children (under the age of 5), hide gold coins in your party area, and give the kids small mesh bags to put their loot in. It's easy and fun. This candy can also be used as the party favor.

If your party guests are older children, provide them with a pirate treasure map. Create one by burning the edges of some brown paper and drawing a map on it, and then



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add a scattering of dust across it (flour will do). The kids must follow the map to the treasure. At each point, have a clue available for the kids to solve before they move on to the next location. Alternatively, provide clues that take them around an area and eventually lead to the treasure.

When the kids reach the treasure chest, have it filled with different kinds of hard candy like Jolly Rancher®, chocolate coins, and fake jewels for their treasure reward. For some clues, use the following (these include both indoor and outdoor locations):

- Tree** — An old matey could take me down, and make me into a boat to sail around.
- Flower bed** — If you pull a bunch from the bed, they will flourish and bloom and make our ship move ahead.
- Sand box** — Don't get caught in the granular seed or soon enough you will be sinking and no longer able to lead.
- Fort** — Head to your perch, pull out your scope, you'll have the best view if you lurch!
- Front porch** — Your perch may be where it all begins, open the door and you may be let in!
- Garage** — It's dark and dank, full of stowage and vittles if we be frank.
- Mailbox** — We ship out on X date, and your marching order will come to the box by the gate.
- Bathtub** — If you get out of hand on board, we'll hose you down in here with a hoard.
- Kitchen table** — Around this place we'll gather for vittles or drink or a game of cards if you rather.
- Fireplace** — It'll be cold on board as the waves take us over, you'll so wish to warm yourselves with burning clover.

These are just a few of the clues you can use to lead your pirate party guests around to find their treasure!

Have your guests Walk the Plank. Place a wooden plank over a kiddie pool filled with water and plastic fish and crocodiles. See who can walk the plank without slipping. (Make sure there is adult supervision on hand.)

Play Pin the Eye Patch on the Pirate.

Hold a Peg Leg Race, a three-legged race with or without sacks.

Have a Treasure Chest Toss. Using small beanbags, see who can toss them into the treasure chest while standing the furthest distance away.



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## PARTY MENU

One thing is for sure, pirates love their grub. Serve up the following:

- Oversized turkey legs
- Hot dogs with pirate flags skewered through them
- Potato salad
- Hot baked biscuits
- Jell-O® bowl filled with gummy fish
- Crocodile Blood Punch — either green or red punch, depending on how your crocodile bleeds.

For a pirate sweet treat, make a batch of chocolate cupcakes and ice them with vanilla frosting. Use orange and black skull and crossbones gummies to decorate. This is a great activity for the kids to do before eating their cupcakes.

## PARTY FAVORS

Send the party pirates home with mini treasure chests. Using one paper lunch bag per child, cut off the two top inches of the bag and use a brown marker to give the bags a wooden design. Outline the edges of the bag and draw a keyhole at the top center of the bag. Fill with more pirate loot for the kids to take away.

Make sure to send a photo to your guests along with your thank you notes for your party memories.

