



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Who's kids' favorite mystery sleuth? Scooby-Doo™, of course! All of us know that Scooby is more interested in his Scooby snacks than the actual mystery — he is a bit of a scaredy cat after all. Still, kids will love to attend a party to solve a Scooby mystery with their own sleuthing skills. Invite your gang over for a party of mystery fun.

Create a **Mystery File Folder Invitation**. Starting with a plain file folder, print out a large sticker label with _____ (birthday child's name) Detective Agency and place it on the folder. Next, write on the folder *top secret and confidential* to look like they were stamped on. Inside the folder, write your party details:

The birthday phantom is at it again! Please come and help _____. The mystery begins at ____ on _____. Join us at the _____'s Detective Agency address for some mystery solving fun. Please RSVP by _____.

At the top of the page write directions for deciphering the secret code. Make sure to place the proper party details on the back of the file for the guests to know the exact details.

Alternatively, create a large brown **Paw Print Invitation** out of heavy cardstock, and write your party details on the paw. Attach it to a large dog bone with a ribbon and hand-deliver to your guests.

DECORATIONS

Use green, yellow, and purple balloons to mark the party spot by hanging them around the front of your home.

Place a banner over the front door saying, "Welcome to Scooby's Mystery Machine!"

Hang *Scooby-Doo* wall decorations and/or Halloween items such as webs, bats, ghosts and cauldrons, if available, throughout the party area.

Cover the party table with a customized *Scooby-Doo* table cover and ensure each place setting has a *Scooby-Doo* plate, napkin, cup and utensils.



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Add any *Scooby-Doo* toys your child may have to the table as a centerpiece and attach several balloons to the toys for added décor.

Cut several pieces of curling ribbon 1 to 2 feet long. Curl the ribbon by pulling it between your thumb and the blade of scissors. Spread the curls on your table.

Hang balloons in bunches for best effect by tying a colorful ribbon around the strings of several balloons, so they hang together.

Attach streamers to a light fixture in the center of the party table to add to the festive environment. Create multi-colored streamers by placing two different-colored streamers back-to-back and twisting (suggest orange and purple for *Scooby-Doo*). You can also use a *Scooby-Doo* streamer.

Using butcher paper, draw and color in a Mystery Machine that is placed on the party wall.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Greet the guests with music from the *Scooby-Doo* soundtrack or with scary, creepy, strange music from a haunted house or Halloween CD.

Apply temporary tattoos to any child that wants one, and give each child a *Scooby-Doo* party hat.

Let the children dress up as their favorite character. Find these items in your closet and around your house: headbands for Daphne, eyeglasses made out of black pipe cleaners for Velma, red scarves for Freddy, large green T-shirt for Shaggy and dog tags for *Scooby-Doo*.

While the kids wait for everyone to arrive, have them make **Dog Bone Photo Frames**. Using simple wooden frames from any craft store, the kids can glue on small dog biscuits and color the wooden frame.

When all of the kids have arrived and dropped their presents off in a certain area, and have decorated their frames, provide a message to read aloud to the kids:

I love taking presents from children! If you want them back you must follow my clues. First find the string that is the color blue.

Place blue yarn on the floor that the kids must follow to their first game.

Web Maze. Set up a web maze by weaving very long black yarn strings around the room. Attach to the ends of each string a white balloon with ghost faces drawn on each one. Have the kids untangle the webs and attach the next clue to one of the balloons.



For more great birthday party planning tips and advice online, visit www.birthdaysrus.com. For the best party supplies and gifts go to www.toysrus.com, or shop at a Toys"R"Us store near you.

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By untangling the web you found my clue on a ghost. Now tie them around your ankle and see who can stomp the most.

Stomp the Balloons. Inside each balloon place a piece of the next clue. After the kids have popped all of the balloons, the kids must put the clue pieces together (number the clues to make this easier).

Yikes! To find the presents you must search high and low and sit on the carpet where the next game is ready to go. When the game is over the last one in the chair will look under to see what is there.

Scooby Where's Your Bone. Have one child sit on the chair and place a bone under it. All of the other kids sit on the floor and everyone takes turns quietly and quickly taking the bone and the person in the chair has to guess who took it. After everyone takes a turn, provide the next clue, which is taped to the bottom of the chair:

Scooby's hungry from all these games the next clue will be found where you see his name.

Pin the Sandwich on Scooby-Doo. Cut the construction paper into sandwich shapes. Place tape, or spray glue, on the tails so they stick. If using spray glue, have them dry sticky side up.

So you think you are getting close, but you're not! Let's see how good you are with the biscuits you drop.

Scooby Snack Drop. Use a jar on the floor and Scooby dog biscuits. Have the kids try to drop 3 biscuits in the jar by standing over it and dropping them from their chins. Place the next clue under the jar.

Zoinks! I unleashed the mummies and they are all around. Wrap up your teammates in hopes you are not found.

Divide the kids into 2 teams and have them race to wrap up their mummies.

Have some adult helpers dress as the phantoms to surprise the kids and get into the Mystery Machine where all the gifts are hidden. Deliver the final clue:

Well the mummies didn't stop you, but they gave me time to get away So, now it's all on you. Talk it over and think about what I might use to drive away.

Have the kids run to your garage, but don't have any cars in there. Open the garage door and there is the *Mystery Machine*. Have the kids run to the car/van, open the back door, and the phantoms hiding there can say, *Hey, we would have gotten away with it too if it weren't for you meddling kids!*



Other thematic party games include:

Scooby-Doo's Message. Have everyone sit in a circle. Tell the birthday child to think of a message that *Scooby-Doo* would want to tell his friends, or help the birthday child write such a message. Have the birthday child whisper that message to the person on his or her left; the message travels from child to child around the circle, until it reaches the person on the birthday child's right. That person tells the message out loud. Then the birthday child tells the original message out loud. Be prepared to be surprised at how the message has changed as it went around the circle!

Gelatin Eating Contest. Place one bowl of gelatin for each child, lined up on the ground – possibly on a table cover to protect against a mess. Put the name of *Scooby-Doo's* friends on each bowl. The players place their hands on the ground next to their bowls. Have someone give the command: *"It's time for some Scooby snacks!"*. All of the players begin eating their gelatin, without moving their hands off the ground. The first one with a clean bowl wins!

Scooby Relay. Have the children stand in two single file lines, facing the same direction. Place a balloon between the knees of the first child in each line. When the race starts, the child turns to face the next person in line; the second child must grasp the balloon with his or her knees and turn to pass it onto the third person, and so on. If the balloon falls to the ground, the team must start over. The first team to pass the balloon down the line wins!

Feeding Time. Draw a picture of *Scooby-Doo* on the side of the cardboard box with his mouth wide open. Cut a hole for the mouth that is large enough for the beanbags to be easily thrown through. Place the box 10 feet away from the children, and give each of them a chance to toss the beanbags into *Scooby-Doo's* mouth.

PARTY MENU



Scooby Dogs in a Blanket. Slice hot dogs lengthwise about halfway through, making sure not to cut apart. Cut cheese into strips. Unroll crescent rolls into individual triangles. Place a hot dog, with a slice of cheese inserted into the area that is cut, inside the roll. Roll crescent back up and bake on cookie sheet at 375°F for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown.

Saucy Dog Bone Snacks. Use a cookie cutter to cut dog bone shapes out of the refrigerator dough bread sticks. Bake according to package directions. While the "bones" are still warm, brush the top of them with a little butter or olive oil, and sprinkle with a generous amount of Parmesan cheese. Pour marinara sauce or spaghetti sauce into individual bowls or party cups. Give one to the guests, so they can dip and eat their yummy doggie treat.

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Puppy Chow. Microwave chips, peanut butter and butter for 1 minute on HIGH. Stir. Microwave about 30 seconds more, until smooth. Add vanilla. Pour over cereal in a large bowl and stir. Pour into a large re-sealable bag, and add powdered sugar. Seal bag and shake. (Have the birthday child help out with the shaking.) Spread evenly on wax paper to cool. Since this treat resembles dog food, it could be served in little doggy dishes.

Gelatin Hounds. Make blueberry gelatin following directions on gelatin package. Use dog-shaped cookie cutter to cut out shapes. Then lay them on a platter.

Dog Bone Cookies. Make sugar cookies following package directions. Roll out dough and cut into dog bone shapes with a cookie cutter, or a knife. Bake according to instructions.

Satisfying Slurpin' Punch. Use two 10 oz. packages of frozen berries (such as strawberries or blueberries), one 12 oz. can of frozen lime juice concentrate, one 32 oz. bottle of ginger ale, one 32 oz. bottle of club soda, and 1 pint of vanilla ice cream.

Partially thaw frozen fruit. Puree fruit in blender and combine with the lime juice concentrate. Chill for at least one hour. Pour mixture into a punch bowl; add ginger ale, club soda and scoops of vanilla ice cream.

Scooby-Doo Cake. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Decorate a really cool *Scooby-Doo* cake.

PARTY FAVORS

Prepare a favor bag for each child, to be given out at the end of the party as a remembrance of the day. Hide the favor bags in one big Mystery Machine grab bag. Ask the children to stick their hands in the mystery grab bag to pull out their hidden favor bags. Fill each favor bag with fun items such as a Scooby-Doo coffin whistle, a bat clicker, crayons, balloons, blowouts and small toys.

Take pictures of the party guests sleuthing their way through the party's mysteries and include them in your *Scooby-Doo* thank you notes.



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