



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Kids are fascinated with the friendly neighborhood *Spider-Man*[®] who spins a web to defeat his enemies. With a bright red suit, and the movements of a spider who does good as a masked super hero, but also is a regular guy with a day job as a photographer for *The Daily Bugle*, this is a great character to build a party theme for kids who want an action-packed party filled with super hero fun.

Create a ***Spider-Man Web Invitation***. Cut out an octagon shape from heavy cardstock, and draw a small circle in its center, extend lines coming out of the center of the circle to the corners of the octagon and draw arches in between each two lines. Place the party details on the web lines of the invitation. On the back of the invitation, glue white spider web netting for an added effect.

Alternatively, create a ***Newspaper Invitation***. Cut out newspaper clippings and glue them onto a piece of heavy cardstock. Fold the cardstock into an invitation card. On the front side, write a headline that warns the party guests of evil villains that are planning to take over the world. Inside, write details that ask them to come to the party dressed as *Spider-Man* or their favorite super heroes and help the birthday child save the day and capture all the escaped villains.

Use thematic language for the invitation:

The _____ (villain name) has escaped, and Spider-Man and _____ (your child's name) need YOUR help!! Come celebrate _____'s birthday by keeping the planet safe!

DECORATIONS

On the front door of your home, create a huge spider web. Use a red tablecloth as a backdrop on the door, make a large spider web using twine, and cut out a large spider from black poster board to attach to the web.

Alternatively, place a picture of *Spider-Man* so that he clings to your front door (or try tying a balloon to your front door with a picture of *Spider-Man* on top of the balloon so it looks like *Spider-Man* is climbing your door).



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Use balloons to mark your house by hanging them around the front of your home.

Cover the table with a *Spider-Man*-themed table cover and ensure each place setting has a *Spider-Man* plate, napkin, cup, and utensils. Alternatively, tableware in the solid colors of red and blue would also be appropriate.

Place your child's *Spider-Man* toys or a *Spider-Man* display on the party table as a centerpiece.

Place disposable cameras on the party table and/or around the party room for kids to take pictures like Peter Parker.

Mark the birthday child's spot with a special *Spider-Man* stadium cup.

Hang spider webs around the party area. You can make your own with cotton.

To add to the décor, place some newspapers in the party area that you have relabeled *The Daily Bugle*.

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

Scatter the curls on your table. Ribbon comes in many colors, so you may want to pick your child's favorite color or the predominant colors from the *Spider-Man* partyware you have chosen.

Hang *Spider-Man* Mylar® balloons around the party area.

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

Place two streamers, each a different color, back to back. Then twist. The result is a multicolor streamer. Try red and black for *Spider-Man*.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Greet children as they arrive and welcome them to "NYC – Home of *Spider-Man*." Have upbeat music playing in the background.

Give each child a press pass for *The Daily Bugle*, the paper for which Peter Parker (a.k.a. *Spider-Man*) takes photos.

While the kids wait for the party guests to arrive, have them create *Spider-Man* masks using pre-cut masks from heavy cardstock and craft supplies. The kids can wear these



during the party and take them home as party favors.

Spider Web Escape. Have all the party guests assemble in a circle. Have each one extend their right hand into the circle and grab the right hand of another party guest. Have each child extend their left hand into the circle and grab the left hand of any party guest except the one whose right hand they are already holding. Explain that they are now in a human spider web and must escape by untangling the web while still holding hands.

Spider Catch. Hide plastic spiders throughout the party area. Leave some completely visible, for they act as good Spider-party décor. Explain that *Spider-Man's* spiders have gotten loose. Instruct the party guests to find and collect the spiders.

Photo Fun. Divide the party guests into two teams. Explain that they are all photographers for *The Daily Bugle*, just like Peter Parker. They must go around taking pictures of the party area to document the event. Hand out a disposable camera to each team, and make sure the guests pass the camera around so all children get a chance to take a photo.

Pin Spider-Man on the Building. Draw a building (can be as simple as a large rectangle with smaller square windows) on the poster board. Mount on a wall. Cut *Spider-Man* shapes from the remaining poster board (trace the outline of *Spider-Man* from a poster or print from a *Spider-Man* website). Place a piece of tape or poster hanger on the back of each *Spider-Man* (you may want to place the tape on each *Spider-Man* during the party, so they don't all get stuck together before the party, or mount them on a place like the refrigerator during the party as they await the activity).

One by one, blindfold children, spin them around, and point them toward the target. Assign a floor of the building to pin *Spider-Man*. The child who sticks their *Spider-Man* closest to the correct floor is the winner! You may want to play this game several times to give the kids more chances to win. Try varying the floor of the building.

Back-to-Back Balloon Pop. Blow up at least one balloon for every two party guests (more are required if game is to be played more than once). Pair up the guests, and have them stand back to back. Place an inflated balloon between the backs of each pair of guests. When you say "Go," the guests must press their backs together until they pop the balloons. Caution: Some young children dislike balloon popping. If this activity is bothering some of the guests, move quickly to the next activity.

Super Power Test. Have all guests sit in a circle. Explain that their super powers are about to be tested:

First, test their super hearing abilities by playing pre-recorded sounds one at a time. Either have the children yell out their guesses as to the name of the sounds, or have them write answers on pieces of paper.



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Second, test their super smelling ability by blindfolding children one at a time. Then place a particular item in front of them to smell. Have them smell items until they guess correctly. Then move onto the next child.

Third, test their super ability to see. Reveal enlarged and reduced pictures of everyday items, one at a time, and have everyone guess the name of each item.

Finally, test their super tasting abilities. Blindfold one of the party guests and bring out a bowl full of items to eat. Make sure to cover the bowl with a napkin so the other party guests cannot see all the food items. Take one food item out and let the blindfolded child taste. Keep feeding the child food items until the child correctly guesses what they taste. Then move onto the next child.

Warning: Before testing their tasting abilities, identify if any children have allergies.

Green Goblin Freeze Tag. Elect a guest to start as the Green Goblin by standing in the center. Have all the other guests line up at one end of the square area. Start the game by announcing, "Spider-Men, you must pass by the Green Goblin without being tagged. If you are tagged you become a Green Goblin Servant. Green Goblin Servants must keep their right foot planted on the ground, but can reach out to tag Spider-Men turning them into more Green Goblin Servants." All the guests try to run across to the other side of the play area as the Green Goblin tries to tag them. If tagged, the guests become Green Goblin Servants, and they must reach out and tag the other Spider-Men running by while keeping one foot planted. The game continues until all the Spider-Men become Green Goblin Servants. The last *Spider-Man* can be the new Green Goblin.

Mr. Freeze. Explain that everyone must dance while the music plays, but must freeze when the music stops. Start playing the music. Stop the music. When all the children have frozen, start the music again. Keep repeating this, letting the music play for different lengths of time.

Musical Spider Webs. Place spider webs on the backs of red paper plates and place them in a large circle on the floor. Have the kids walk in a circle and each time the music stops, take a web away.

PARTY MENU

Radioactive Spider Sandwiches. Cut out oval-shaped sandwiches with vegetable stick legs and olive eyes.

String Cheese, which will remind the kids of Spider-Man's webbing.

Chocolate Spiders. Coat chow mein noodles with chocolate to give the effect of spiders covered in chocolate.



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Crunchy Munchy Goodies. Use peanuts, chocolate candies with colored shell, licorice pieces, granola, pretzels, raisins, coconut, dried fruit, and any of the birthday child's other favorite snack foods. Mix everything in a big bowl or platter.

Green Goblin Eggs. Slice hard-boiled eggs in half. Scoop out the yolk. Mix yolk with green food coloring (or two parts blue food coloring, one part yellow food coloring). Add mustard and mayonnaise. Mix until smooth. Scoop yolk mixture back into each egg white half.

Green Goblin Soda Slushy. Mix green sherbet and lemon-lime soda together.

Chocolate Fizz. Stir together chocolate syrup and milk until well blended. Microwave uncovered on HIGH 3-4 minutes, or until hot. Poor heated mixture into 8 paper "hot" cups or mugs. Slowly pour soda into each cup. Top with whipped topping.

Tip: Freeze plastic spider rings in ice cubes and serve in the drinks. The kids can keep their rings.

PARTY FAVORS

Prepare a *Spider-Man* for each child to be given out at the end of the party as a remembrance of the day. Using brown lunch bags, paint the *Spider-Man* emblem on the front of the bags. Fill each bag with inexpensive *Spider-Man* items such as a *Spider-Man* spiral notepad and a pencil (what every budding journalist needs), *Spider-Man* characters, a plastic spider, *Spider-Man* stickers, and some candy.

Make sure to develop the pictures that the party guests took during the party with the disposable cameras and send them to your party guests with your *Spider-Man* thank you notes.



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