

Sample House Party Agenda

I. Guests Arrive

Greet guests and ask everyone to sign in on the whale watching party sign in sheet.

II. Meet and Greet (10 minutes)

Welcome everyone and review the night's agenda so your guests know what to expect. Ask everyone to introduce themselves. Consider an ice breaker question that can make folks comfortable.

You should also let your guests know that everyone here tonight is part of something much bigger. The Gorton's campaign is part of an international Greenpeace campaign to end whaling that began with Greenpeace ships in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary defending the whales. In January, there were more than 140 whale watching house parties across the U.S. So far, the campaign has generated more than 100,000 postcards, petitions and emails to Gorton's. Grocers, ranging from national chains to corner markets, are starting to take notice and take action, too.

III. Gorton's Whale Campaign Overview (10 minutes)

Included in the Whale Activist Kit is a fact sheet on whaling and a flyer on the Gorton's campaign. You may want to review this in advance so that you can highlight the main points to your guests. Share copies of the flyer with all of your guests.

IV. Watch the Video (10 minutes)

The DVD gives a very visual and thorough overview of whaling in Antarctic waters. Some of the footage is very graphic, so be sure to take that into consideration before showing it to more sensitive audiences.

V. Origami Whale Making, Video Discussion (30 minutes)

Instructions for making origami whales are included in the Whale Activist Kit. You can use many types of paper for making origami whales, including construction paper or wrapping paper. In addition to paper, you will need scissors and markers. Making origami whales is a nice activity to do while your party guests discuss the video you have just watched.

VI. Phone Call with a Greenpeace Campaigner (30 minutes)

If you are interested in having a short presentation from Greenpeace as part of your party, send a request to whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org at least 2 weeks in advance of your party. Greenpeace Oceans Campaigner Beth Fitzgerald is available on Friday evenings to participate in your house party by phone. Her presentation gives a brief history of whaling, an overview of the International Whaling Commission and the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, and discussion of Greenpeace's international campaign to end whaling, including our work on Gorton's. This short presentation leaves ample time afterward for questions and answers.

VII. Letter Writing & Planning for Postcard Signature Drive (30 minutes)

Now that you've learned more about the whale hunt and the Gorton's campaign, it's time to turn that knowledge into action. Greenpeace activists have been able to slow the slaughter this season and save some whales, but to truly end this practice we need your help. Choose which materials

you want to use from the Whale Activist Kit, www.greenpeaceusa.org/gortons, and make sure to have enough copies on hand for you party. If you want a stack of preprinted postcards mailed to you for your postcarding event, send a request to whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org.

Over the next 2 months, we are aiming to get hundreds of letters written to grocery store managers and thousands of postcards signed to deliver to Gorton's. In the Whale Activist Kit is a sample letter to grocers that you can copy for participants to sign or to use as a sample for writing their own letters.

Please use the last 20 minutes of your party to plan a postcarding event together. The Whale Activist Kit includes a guide on postcarding & petitioning. There you will find helpful tips on getting signatures that you can share with everyone participating in your postcarding event.

You'll want to pick a day that works for the greatest number of people at your party, a location that gets a lot of foot traffic (your local grocery store would be appropriate), and a time for folks to meet. An hour or two is usually sufficient. Setting a goal for the number of postcards you can get signed is a fun way to challenge yourselves and it helps you determine how many postcards and petitions you will need to have on hand for your event.

VIII. Wrap-Up

When you're done with your event, please take a moment to let us know how it went. Email a report and a few of your best digital pictures to whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org.

We plan to deliver to Gorton's en masse all of the postcards, petitions and origami whales before the International Whaling Commission meeting in June. We have over 100,000 signatures so far, and we want to double that number in the next two months. Your efforts are key in helping us reach this goal. Be sure to send your signed postcards, petitions and origami whales by May 15th to:

Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

If you have questions, please let us know: send an email to whaleparty@wdc.greenpeace.org