

What's Cooking @ MCPL (cookbook club)

Checklist and Program Outline

Prep before meeting:

Table and chair set-up
Plates and utensils tote
Extra serving utensils (kitchenette)
Handouts for next month
Recipe booklet for current month
MCPL Resource Handout

After meeting:

Stats sheet
WhoFi stats
Set out new handouts/posters

Bring to meeting:

Plates and bowls
Napkins & paper towels
Silverware
Serving utensils (put at beginning of line; in plastic pitchers)
Evaluation forms and sign
Poster for next month's theme
Extra handouts and bookmarks
Books for next month's theme (bookmarks)
Wet wipes, washcloths, handtowels
Hand sanitizer
Recipe booklets (1 per patron)
Pens and permanent markers
Recipe name cards
Patron name cards
Water bottles

Arrange eating/discussion tables in square/U-shape

- Place 1 recipe booklet at each spot
- Place 1 discussion prompter at each spot

Small table at room entrance:

- Hand sanitizer
- Pens and permanent markers
- Name cards laid out (plus blank for new guests)

Large table along wall (next to small table):

- Poster and handouts with next month's theme
- Evaluation sign and forms
- Sample books/magazines for next month's theme

Food tables

- Extra blank Recipe Cards (plus 1+ black permanent ink marker)
- Plates, bowls, napkins, silverware
- Decorations (optional)
- Set up recipe cards along table (start with appetizers, main dishes, end with desserts)
- Place a napkin in front of each recipe card (for the serving utensil to rest on)
- Water bottles in bin at end of table
- **DESSERT night and COOKIE EXCHANGE night: have a separate table for soups and breads; bowls, spoons, knives, napkins, small plates at beginning of line; recipe name cards**

When everyone has set up their dishes:

- Take pictures of dishes
- Have everyone dish up and then when everyone is seated, go around the room and discuss dishes
 - The "questionnaire" sheets are just to guide people if they aren't sure what to talk about; not something that **needs** to be filled out or discussed
- Can remind the other staff that if they want, they can go through the line and get a plate of food
- **remind staff to limit themselves to only one plate**

What's Cooking @ MCPL?

Cookbook Club Discussion Questions

Cookbook and chef-specific questions

1. Have you ever checked out this cookbook before?
2. How many recipes did you try?
3. How familiar are you with the chef / author?
4. What did you like/dislike about either the cookbook or the chef/author?
5. How would you rate the recipe you selected? Both ease of preparation and final taste?
 - a. Did you find yourself needing to adjust the recipe?
 - b. Did you make any substitutions?
 - c. If you plan on making this again in the future, is there anything you would change about it?

General questions

1. What is your background with cooking and food preparation?
 - a. How old were you when you first tried preparing food?
 - b. Who did you learn from?
2. What is your favorite type of food?
3. Is there a certain technique that you struggle with or that you really enjoy?

<u>Month</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Date</u>
January 2023	Appetizers	
February 2023	Heart-Healthy	
March 2023	Cajun	
April 2023	Brunch & Afternoon Tea	
May 2023	Salads	
August 2023	Farmers Market	
September 2023	French cuisine	
October 2023	Pumpkin	
November 2023	Slow Cooker / Crockpot	
December 2023	Cookie Exchange	
January 2024	Appetizers	
February 2024	Cajun	
March 2024	Vegetarian or Vegan	
April 2024	Desserts	
May 2024	Gluten-Free	
June 2024	Thai cuisine	
July 2024	Farmers Market	
August 2024	Greek cuisine	
September 2024	Lemon	
October 2024	Family Favorites	
November 2024	Norwegian	
December 2024	Cookie Exchange	
January 2025	Appetizers	Jan 13th
February 2025	Cajun cuisine	Feb 10th
March 2025	Slow Cooker / Crockpot	Mar 10th
April 2025	Mexican cuisine	Apr 7th
May 2025	Desserts	May 12th
June 2025	Breakfast & Brunch	Jun 9th
July 2025	Farmers Market	July 7th
August 2025	Italian cuisine	Aug 11th
September 2025	Apples	Sep 8th
October 2025	German cuisine	Oct 13th
November 2025	Soups & Stews	cancelled
December 2025	Cookie Exchange	cancelled
January 2026	Appetizers	cancelled
February 2026	Cajun cuisine	cancelled
March 2026	Slow Cooker / Crockpot	
April 2026	Breakfast & Brunch	
May 2026	Middle Eastern cuisine	
June 2026	Desserts	
July 2026	Indian cuisine	
August 2026	Chocolate	
September 2026	Family Favorites	
October 2026	Potatoes	
November 2026	Soups & Stews	
December 2026	Cookie Exchange	

Thank you for participating in today's program
We value your feedback

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Program:
Date:
Instructor(s):

How did you learn about this event?
 Library website Library flyer
 Newspaper Word of mouth Other: _____

Do you have a MCPL library card?
 Yes No

Are you a resident of Mason City or rural Cerro Gordo county?
 Yes No

How would you rate this program overall?
 Excellent Good Satisfactory Fair Poor

Program content?
 Excellent Good Satisfactory Fair Poor

Ability of presenter to communicate content?
 Excellent Good Satisfactory Fair Poor

Convenience of program day and time?
 Excellent Good Satisfactory Fair Poor

Further comments on day/time: _____

In the future, what programming would you like to see available at MCPL?

Additional comments

**MASON CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



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Links to Canva projects:

[Recipe Booklet - October 2025 - German Cuisine](#)

[Bookmarks - Cookbook Book Club - Samples](#)

[Social Media - Website - Slides and Banners - Samples](#)

[Display Posters - Handouts - Schedules - Placards - Examples](#)