

ARTIFICIAL BEACH PARTY

Here in Michigan, our winters are long and cold, so by the time February rolls around we've forgotten what the sun looks like. So I decided to throw a beach party.

I decorate the youth room with inflatable palm trees, brightly colored tablecloths, and a kiddie pool filled with rubber duckies and other floating toys. Have teenagers wear Hawaiian shirts and sunglasses, listen to beach music, and have a Limbo contest. At the end of the night, watch a movie with a beach theme while sitting in lawn chairs.

DINNER & A MOVIE

Here's an easy fund-raiser idea: Create a "Dinner and A Movie" night.

We charged singles \$7 and couples \$14, then treated them to a spaghetti dinner with a side salad—served by the teenagers. After dinner we had a five-minute intermission, and then showed a movie. You could even offer for some of the teenagers to provide babysitting services, so people don't incur that cost, too.