

Reduce waste by hosting a **GREEN** birthday party for your child!

Please note that the Irvine Nature Center kindly requests that you use **environmentally-friendly items** that have minimal packaging and, if possible, are made of recycled or recyclable materials. **No noisemakers or balloons please!** Please read the “Did you know?” section below for more details. All piñata activities are held outdoors. Food must be prepared in advance, or may be delivered. Our **GREEN** parties demonstrate that making simple changes can have a positive impact on the environment. We hope you are as excited as we are about celebrating your child and the earth.

Did you know? What goes up, must come down!

Balloons look festive, but they have many environmental concerns associated with them.

- **Pollution:** Helium balloons when released return to Earth as litter. They can travel thousands of miles and pollute the most remote and pristine places. Mylar balloons are often coated with a metallic finish and are not bio-degradable.
- **Wildlife Impact:** Balloons injure countless animals each year. They return to the land and sea where they can be mistaken for food and eaten by animals. Sea turtles, dolphins, whales, fish and birds have been reported with balloons in their stomachs and ribbons and strings can lead to entanglement, causing death.
- **Noise:** Balloons often pop accidentally, and the noise they create adds stress to Irvine’s live animals.

How can you make your child’s party “GREEN?**”**

Here are some ways to reduce your carbon footprint when hosting a party or event at Irvine.

- Send electronic invites instead of paper. Saving paper, saves our trees!
- Use “seed” paper when sending invites. Party guests will love to plant this invite after the party!
- Use paper balloons or lanterns to decorate!
- Use fabric to decorate your child’s party instead of disposable decorations and tableware.
- Purchase Irvine’s partyware package! This package includes reusable tablecloths, plates, utensils, cups, etc. Plus it saves you a lot of clean up time!