Host your own NPR Listening Party!

Gather your nearest & dearest for an awesome shared listening experience.
The holidays are upon us, inspiring a spirit of giving and good cheer. Giving can take on many forms: we show support for people, organizations and causes we love by donating our money, our skills, and even our ears.

At NPR, we believe that listening can be a beautiful gift with the power to transform us. So this holiday season, we invite you to gather your nearest and dearest to take a break from the chaos of the holidays and listen together to a selection of handpicked NPR stories about the spirit of giving - and share your own giving stories, too.

Our How to Host a Listening Party Kit will guide you through our new social listening experience, the NPR Listening Party. Begin by choosing a theme that inspires you: personal stories of giving, the future of philanthropy, or the psychology of why we give. Accompanying each theme are questions to help kickstart your discussion after each story.

We’re willing to bet your Listening Party will make you think, inspire you, and connect you more deeply to your community and the world around you.

Happy Holidays from NPR Generation Listen!
1. How to Throw a Holiday Listening Party

What is a Listening Party, Anyways?
How to Get Started (in 6 easy steps)
Quick Checklist

2. The Official Listening Toolkit

5 Tips on How to Moderate a Conversation from Guy Raz
NPR Holiday Playlist
Holiday Cocktail Recipe

3. Stories in the Spirit of Giving

**Personal Giving Stories:**
Story: On Community Health
Story: On Constructing a Voice
Story: On Helping Refugees
Story: On Having a Daughter

**The Future of Philanthropy:**
Story: On Philanthropy
Story: On Voluntourism
Story: On Charity

**The Psychology of Giving:**
Story: On Giving
Story: On Compassion
Story: On Helping One, Not Millions
How to Throw a Listening Party
Using NPR programming
WHAT IS A LISTENING PARTY, ANYWAYS?

An NPR Listening Party is an awesome way to bring together friends for a fun and refreshing social experience that is usually solitary: listening to radio. Or podcasts. Or Soundcloud. Wherever you find those audio stories that stoke your curiosity and make you think a little differently about what goes on around you. NPR offers a window into the world through great storytelling; you and your crew take a break from your screens, listen together, and go deeper with thoughtful discussion and stories of your own.

All you need to do is pick a great story (or download a selection of handpicked stories from our NPR Listening Party Kit), gather 15-20 friends in a cozy place, hit airplane mode, and jump right in.

We’ve been hosting these all over the country this past year and listeners are loving the experience. We think you will, too. Show us how you #hostyourown #NPRListeningParty and together we can spread the mission of public radio for a more informed, engaged, and empathetic world.
**HOW TO GET STARTED**

1. **Pick a day and time.**
   Weekend brunch works great, as do weekday evenings. Consider other events happening in your community already and schedule around them so you don’t have to compete. We recommend carving out about 90 minutes for the whole event.

2. **Pick a venue.**
   We recommend hosting at your house to keep things cozy and casual. But if you have other ideas or access to an intimate space, go for it! Ideally, aim to keep the group no larger than 20 people so that everyone gets a chance to speak.
HOW TO GET STARTED

3 Send your invite.
You can use email, Facebook, or whatever you like. Please include the NPR Generation Listen logo or feel free to use our invite graphic. Have fun with it! A day or two before the Listening Party, send your guests a reminder to be on time and include any key information about arriving to / parking at your home, etc.

4 Choose a story or podcast.
Think about what will connect with the friends you’ve invited. You can choose one longer piece, or pair a couple of shorter segments. Generally aim for no longer than 45 minutes. Stories with a bit of tension or controversy make for a more lively discussion. Listen ahead of time and prepare some conversation starters to kick off your discussion. Also, consider which friends may have some interesting ideas to contribute based on subject matter expertise.
5 Prep the space.

Coziness is key. You want people to settle in - kind of like watching a movie. Put out lots of pillows and blankets. Keep the lighting soft. If possible, arrange seating into a circle, which will help conversation flow. It’s a good idea to have a focal point for folks to settle their gaze on (it may feel strange at first to not be looking at a screen). We also recommend setting out paper and pens so people can take notes and/or doodle while they listen.

6 Mind the details.

Identify the device you plan to play the story from ahead of time. Make sure it’s fully charged and notifications are off. You may consider downloading the piece if your Internet is spotty. Make sure your speakers are powerful enough for everyone to hear with no problems. Oh, and stock up on some light snacks and drinks for folks to munch on.
QUICK CHECKLIST

☐ Set date + time
☐ Send invite
☐ Pre-listen to story
☐ Jot down a few discussion-starting questions
☐ Create a cozy feel in the hosting space:
  ☐ Arrange seating in a circle if possible
  ☐ Pillows, blankets, comfy chairs
  ☐ Soft lighting
  ☐ Pre-download story or make sure you have solid Internet connection

☐ Turn off notifications on streaming device
☐ Set out some notepads and pens / markers
☐ Stock up on light snacks & beverages
☐ Know the room: are there some subject matter experts you can pass the ball to during the discussion?
☐ Snap some pics for the socials
☐ Be creative! Make your Listening Party uniquely yours
The Official Listening Toolkit

How to move a conversation, what to listen to, and what to eat or drink.
5 TIPS ON HOW TO MODERATE A CONVERSATION

with Guy Raz

NPR’s Guy Raz is an award-winning journalist and host of NPR’s TED Radio Hour

As a host and correspondent, he has interviewed and profiled more than 6,000 people that span the gamut from Jimmy Carter to Mark Zuckerberg to Taylor Swift. Suffice it to say, Guy is a true master of the art of opening people up. He was kind enough to share his top tips for moderating an incredible conversation.

1. Empathy. Empathy. Give something, get something. If you make yourself vulnerable, others will be willing to open up to you.

2. Be open and curious in your conversation. Find moments of common experience whenever you can. (i.e.: I like jazz! Me too!!)

3. Acknowledge silences and awkward pauses.
Each year, NPR Music publishes a long mix of holiday songs that mess with the yuletide tradition. We call them Tinsel Tunes or Jingle Jams, but the title isn’t as important as the vibe. Here’s a sneak peak of some highlights. Look out for a deeper Spotify mix closer to the actual holidaze.
Get into the holiday spirit with this festive cocktail recommended by our friends at NPR’s Salt blog. Can be served with or without alcohol.

Cranberry Antioxidant Punch from The Salt

Makes approximately 6 drinks

2 cups fresh cranberries
6 to 8 pears, medium size
1 cup quince simple syrup
(make ahead, recipe below)

Feed cranberries and whole pears into a juice machine. Double strain the juice through a fine mesh strainer to remove the cranberry seeds. In a pitcher, mix the pear and cranberry juice with the quince simple syrup. To serve, pour over ice and garnish with fresh cranberries.

To make alcoholic, add 1 1/2 ounce of vodka per cocktail.

Quince Simple Syrup:
1 cup honey
2 cups water
3 medium-sized quinces, sliced with seeds removed
In a small pot, combine honey, water, and quince. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and allow quince to simmer for about 10 minutes or until fruit is soft. Remove from heat, strain the quince out, discard. Let syrup cool to room temperature before using.
10 Stories in the Spirit of Giving

1. Personal Giving Stories (4 Stories)
2. The Future of Philanthropy (3 Stories)
3. The Psychology of Giving (3 Stories)
Personal Giving Stories

Giving to others has the power to change us. These inspiring stories remind us that no act of giving is too small to have an impact - and creating a better world starts first with us.
How Can You Give A Community Better Health?

Host: Guy Raz on TED Radio Hour
Time: 7 min 11 sec

Is there an issue or problem in your community that could benefit from Ron Finley’s Guerrilla Gardener approach? Have you seen something similar before? Have you tried it?

How Do You Construct A Voice?

Host: Guy Raz on TED Radio Hour
Time: 11 min 26 sec

Have you ever received a gift that made you feel more like yourself?
Risking Arrest, Thousands Of Hungarians Offer Help to Refugees

Reporter: Lauren Frayer on All Things Considered
Time: 3 min 28 sec

Is there a time you put yourself at risk or sacrificed your own needs to help someone else? What happened and how did you feel?

I’m So Proud To Have You As A Daughter & Grandpa The Gardener Helped Nurture His Seedling Grandson

Host: Steve Inskeep
Time: 2 min 1 sec

Talk about an unexpected or life-changing contribution that a parent or grandparent made to your life. What was happening in your life at that time? What sacrifices or compromises did your parent or grandparent have to make to give you this gift?

Host: David Greene
Time: 3 min
both on Morning Edition
Do we have the wrong idea about philanthropy? This question lies at the heart of these thought-provoking stories that challenge the status quo of how we think about charity and explore the ways new generations are changing the giving game.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reporter/Host</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How Millennials Are Reshaping Charity And Online Giving</td>
<td>Elise Hu on <em>All Things Considered</em></td>
<td>4 min 32 sec</td>
<td>Did this piece resonate with you? What other ways would you like to be involved with organizations you support, other than just giving cash?</td>
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<tr>
<td>As 'Voluntourism' Explodes In Popularity, Who's It Helping Most?</td>
<td>Carrie Kahn on <em>Goats &amp; Soda</em></td>
<td>8 min 51 sec</td>
<td>Have you participated in Voluntourism? What was your experience like? What do you think of the concept?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do We Have The Wrong Idea About Charity?</td>
<td>Guy Raz on <em>TED Radio Hour</em></td>
<td>18 min 20 sec</td>
<td>Do you agree with Dan Pallotta? Did his perspective surprise you? Do you think our society is thinking the wrong way about how we run non-profits?</td>
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Are we wired to be generous and compassionate, or is giving a learned behavior? NPR’s social science correspondent Shankar Vedantam dives into the hidden psychological forces that influence how and why we give.
Research Suggests Generosity Is Hardwired Into Our Brains

Did this research surprise you? If in fact people are less inclined to give when asked, how should organizations that need funding go about fundraising? Discuss.

The Science of Compassion*

How do you make compassion a habit? How do you feel about prioritizing your giving by immediacy of need (for example, local charity vs. global charity)?

Why Your Brain Wants to Help One Child In Need - But Not Millions

Does this research resonate with you? Do you find yourself bowing out from thinking about a problem or cause if it feels too big, too hopeless? How might you be able to override that line of thinking?
visit our website for more information

generationlisten.npr.org/listening-party

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