Name: _____ Date: _____

Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

Circle group

Closing a street for a party sounds fun. But a street belongs to everyone. Fire trucks use it. So do delivery drivers and the people who live nearby. That is why most cities ask for a permit. A permit is a written permission slip from the city. Neighbors need one before they block the road.

It usually starts with a form. The organizer gives the date and the hours. The organizer also names the stretch of street to close. Many cities ask for signatures from neighbors. This shows that the people who live there agree. The form often must come in several weeks early. City workers need time to review it.

Safety is a big part of the review. The city may ask for barricades at each end of the block. It may ask for a plan to let emergency vehicles pass. Some places have rules about noise and about cleaning up. Details differ in each city. So organizers should ask their own local office.

Is the paperwork worth it? The permit tells city departments about the closed street. Drivers can go around it. Police and fire crews will know. Neighbors can also speak up early. Then the party can go on, and the street is shared fairly.

Questions

1. What is a permit?

_____

_____

2. Whose signatures do many cities ask for?

_____

_____

3. Why must the form come in early?

_____

_____

4. What safety steps might the city ask for?

_____

_____

5. Why does the writer say a street belongs to everyone?

_____

_____

6. How does the permit help drivers and emergency crews?

_____

_____

Words to know

permit: written permission from an official office
organizer: the person who plans an event
signatures: names written by hand to show agreement
barricades: barriers that block a road
review: to look over carefully before deciding

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

Triangle group

Closing a street for a party sounds fun, but a street belongs to everyone. Fire trucks, delivery drivers and people who live nearby all depend on it. That is why most cities require a permit, a written permission slip from the city, before neighbors can block the road.

The process usually begins with a form. The organizer gives the date, the hours, and the exact stretch of street to be closed. Many cities also ask the organizer to collect signatures from neighbors, which shows that the people who live there agree. Applications often must arrive several weeks early so that city workers have time to review them.

Safety is a big part of the review. The city may require barricades at each end of the block, and it may ask for a plan to let emergency vehicles pass if needed. Some places have rules about noise and about cleaning up afterward. Details differ from city to city, so organizers should check with their own local office.

Is all this paperwork worth it? The permit tells city departments about the closure, so drivers can be directed around it and police and fire crews will know. It also gives neighbors a way to speak up early, before the cones go out. When the paperwork is done, the party can go forward knowing that the street is being shared fairly.

Questions

1. What is a permit?

_____

_____

2. Whose signatures do many cities ask the organizer to collect?

_____

_____

3. Why must applications often arrive several weeks early?

_____

_____

4. What safety steps might the city require?

_____

_____

5. Why does the writer say a street belongs to everyone?

_____

_____

6. How does the permit help drivers and emergency crews?

_____

_____

Words to know

permit: written permission from an official office
organizer: the person who plans an event
signatures: names written by hand to show agreement
barricades: barriers that block a road
review: to look over carefully before deciding

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

Square group

Closing a street for a party sounds delightful, yet a street belongs to the entire community. Fire trucks, delivery drivers and the people who live nearby all depend on it. That explains why most cities require a permit, a written permission slip issued by the city, before neighbors may block the road.

The process generally begins with an application form. The organizer supplies the date, the hours, and the exact stretch of street that is to be closed. Many cities also ask the organizer to gather signatures from neighbors, which demonstrates that the people who live there are in agreement. Applications frequently must arrive several weeks in advance so that city workers have enough time to review them thoroughly.

Safety forms a major part of that review. The city may insist on barricades at each end of the block, and it may request a plan for allowing emergency vehicles to pass if necessary. Some places also have rules concerning noise and cleaning up afterward. Because the details differ from one city to another, organizers should consult their own local office.

Is all of this paperwork worthwhile? The permit informs city departments about the closure, so drivers can be directed around it and police and fire crews will be aware of it. It also gives neighbors a way to voice concerns early, before the cones are set out. Once the paperwork is complete, the party can proceed in the knowledge that the street is being shared fairly.

Questions

1. What is a permit?

_____

_____

2. Whose signatures do many cities ask the organizer to gather?

_____

_____

3. Why must applications frequently arrive several weeks in advance?

_____

_____

4. What safety measures might the city insist on?

_____

_____

5. Why does the writer say a street belongs to the entire community?

_____

_____

6. In what way does the permit assist drivers and emergency crews?

_____

_____

Words to know

permit: written permission from an official office
organizer: the person who plans an event
signatures: names written by hand to show agreement
barricades: barriers that block a road
review: to look over carefully before deciding

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

Easier · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. A written permission slip from the city.
2. Neighbors who live on the street.
3. City workers need time to review it.
4. Barricades and a plan to let emergency vehicles pass.
5. Fire trucks, drivers and neighbors all use it.
6. It tells city departments about the closure so they can plan.

Triangle: Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

This passage · 227 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. A written permission slip from the city.
2. Neighbors who live on the street.
3. City workers need time to review them.
4. Barricades and a plan to let emergency vehicles pass.
5. Fire trucks, drivers and neighbors all depend on it.
6. It tells city departments about the closure so everyone can plan around it.

Square: Asking the City to Close Your Street for a Party

Harder · 246 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.3

1. A written permission slip issued by the city.
2. Neighbors who live on the street.
3. City workers need enough time to review them.
4. Barricades and a plan for letting emergency vehicles pass.
5. Fire trucks, drivers and neighbors all depend on it.
6. It informs city departments about the closure so everyone can plan around it.