

Swap Meet Guide

When it comes to school trends, green is the new black. And what better way to green your school than to give students and staff the opportunity to reuse unwanted items through a swap meet?

At a school swap meet, gently-used goods are donated to the school and then sold or traded - giving new life to discarded items. If one person's trash is another person's treasure, then a school swap meet is sure to provide a treasure trove of possibilities!

A QUICK CHECKLIST

- A teacher or adult sponsor
- Group of students
- Other volunteers
- A place to collect donations
- A place to hold the swap meet
- Tables
- Posters
- Vouchers or cash float (optional)
- Reuseable shopping bags
(brought from home by students)



WHY HOST A SWAP MEET?

A swap meet is the perfect eco-friendly school event. Unwanted items are kept out of the landfill and put into the hands of someone who can use them. What's more, reusing used items reduces the waste associated with the production and packaging of new products.

A swap meet lets us follow the 3R Hierarchy – Reduce, Reuse, and then Recycle – helping schools get their waste to half.

CHOOSE YOUR SWAP MEET:

Once you decide to hold a school swap meet, you'll need to decide on the type of swap meet.

No-Frills Swap Meet

This is a pared-down swap meet where no money or vouchers are exchanged. Participants may choose their item or items of choice, free of charge.

Voucher Swap Meet

This is a one-to-one swap where participants are given a voucher for each gently-used item they donate. Each voucher may be redeemed for an item of choice.

Cash Swap Meet

This swap meet also doubles as a school fundraiser. Participants pay low prices for gently-used items. The benefit of this option is the money raised can be reinvested into other eco-friendly school initiatives.

Themed Swap Meet

This type of swap meet limits donation items to a specific category such as books, clothing, or games. A themed swap meet can work with any of the options listed above.



ORGANIZING A SCHOOL SWAP MEET:

The following are some simple steps to set your school swap meet in motion:

Find Your Champions

Start by forming a small group of volunteers made up of dedicated students and at least one teacher or adult. Involve the community by asking parents to help out on the day of the swap meet.



Spread the Word

Let students and staff know you're planning a swap meet and how it will work. Include information on the date, time, and location of the swap meet as well as the donation location and cut-off date. Be clear about the type of donations you are looking for.

Promote the swap meet through your school website, emails/letters to parents, PA announcements, and posters. Make sure you give plenty of notice, as participants will need time to collect donations. Remind participants to bring a reusable shopping bag on the day of the swap meet.

Visit www.mmsb.nl.ca for sample PA announcements and a customizable email/letter to parents.

Prepare the Location

Choose a space and the number of tables required to accommodate the amount of donations you receive. Sort the items on the tables based on the type of good (e.g. books, housewares, toys). For themed swap meets, sort items by category (e.g. novels, early readers, board books).



Host Your Swap Meet

Organize extra volunteers on the day of the swap meet to help keep the tables organized and take vouchers or cash as participants leave with their selections. At the end of the swap meet, donate remaining items to a local charity or thrift store.

TIP: Make your school swap meet an annual event that the school community can look forward to. Choose a date that coincides with special occasions like Waste Reduction Week, Environment Week, or Earth Day.

Share Your Story

Once you've successfully organized and hosted a school swap meet, contact the MMSB. We'd love to share your experiences and ideas to help motivate other schools to host a swap meet of their own.



INFORMATION

For more information on organizing a swap meet at your school, contact MMSB:

Marketing & Public Education Officer

- Tel: 709-753-0948
- Toll Free: 1-800-901-MMSB
- Email: inquiries@mmsb.nl.ca
- Website: mmsb.nl.ca