

36 Ideas to Get Involved in NNM

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Categories

- Get Everyone Involved
- Schools or Workplaces
- Grocery Store or Supermarket

Get Everyone Involved

- Ask the city mayor or state governor to declare March "National Nutrition Month®." Provide a proclamation form to make it easier for the staff.
- Promote National Nutrition Month® on outdoor billboards. Write to nnm@eatright.org for more information.
- Invite the author of a nutrition book to speak at your group's meeting. For ideas, go to the [Good Nutrition Reading List](#) for a collection of nutrition books.
- Plan a cooking demo or nutrition event. Invite a dietitian, restaurant chef or local culinary school to conduct a cooking demo combined with a brief nutrition presentation. Provide copies of recipes plus NNM brochures and measuring spoons or other cooking items from the NNM Catalog.
- Sponsor a "dial-a-dietitian" night through a local radio station. Callers may ask nutrition questions for RDs to answer. Even better if a local television station will participate.
- Contact the local library and schedule a story time, nutrition program or a poster coloring contest for kids. Provide activity sheets for children, Eat Right nutrition tip sheets for adults and NNM bookmarks for everyone.
- Organize a National Nutrition Month® presentation at your local park district or senior center.
- Organize a food donation campaign for a local food pantry or shelter.

- As a family, commit to trying a new fruit or vegetable each week during National Nutrition Month®.
- Plan to eat more meals together as a family during National Nutrition Month®.

Return to Top

Schools or Workplaces

- Create a "nutrition question of the day" contest sent by email or posted on a display. Draw the name of a daily prize winner from those who provided the correct answer. Suggested prizes: NNM pens, pencils, magnets, buttons or cooking items from the NNM catalog. Award a grand prize at the end of the month drawn from all correct submissions.
- Vote for your favorite fruits and vegetables: Offer a selection of fruits and vegetables cut into bite-size pieces. Ask participants to vote for their favorite vegetable and fruit. Post a tally board to record votes. Handout "**20 Ways to Enjoy More Fruits and Vegetables.**"
- Classroom: Ask children to carefully save empty food product labels and boxes. Spend some time reading labels and comparing information in the Nutrition Facts panels. Expand into a menu-planning opportunity, individually or in teams, using MyPlate as the guide to a healthy meal.
- Start a school vegetable garden by planting seeds indoors or in the ground.
- Take a field trip to a farmers market or a local farm.
- Develop a lesson plan that explains the science behind ingredients needed for baking.
- Assign a school group project that involves each group researching one of the food groups, allowing each child to explain a food from that food group and what nutrition it provides.
- Organize and sponsor a "**Healthy Lunchtime Challenge**" for your school district.
- Host a "**MyPlate Champion**" event in your classroom.
- Develop a school project that involves kids drawing and creating a meal based on MyPlate, using the **Choose MyPlate Coloring Page.**
- Organize a sports nutrition education session after school or during gym class.
- Highlight ethnic and cultural food traditions. Offer special menu items from international cuisines (Asian, Mediterranean, Mexican, etc.) or regional foods of the United States.
- Organize a "healthy recipe" contest among employees. Have the judges be VIP's from your workplace. Award **NNM t-shirts, mugs or other items as prizes.**
- Organize a healthy potluck, making sure each of the food groups is represented.
- Distribute coupons for discounts on a healthy meal featured in the cafeteria or vouchers for nutritious beverages or snacks.
- Decorate the cafeteria with NNM posters or banners, table tents and balloons. Create a "take one" display with NNM brochures, bookmarks, Eat Right Nutrition Tips, and recipe handouts.
- Conduct a series of healthy weight and fitness sessions at your workplace. Recruit a local fitness or yoga instructor to assist you. Give each participant a National Nutrition Month® t-shirt, pedometer or water bottle plus healthy eating handouts.
- Conduct a formal taste testing of new healthier versions of recipes that are being considered for school or workplace menus.
- Host a "lunch and learn" session on healthy eating.
- Organize a health fair that promotes healthy eating resources and important preventive screenings.

Return to Top

Grocery Store or Supermarket

- Work with a local grocery store to promote NNM with posters and handouts.
- Conduct supermarket tours to provide label reading opportunities and information about healthy food choices. Offer a special tour for kids focused on selecting healthy snacks. Provide "**Smart Snacking Tips for Kids**" NNM brochures and copies of selected NNM activity sheets.
- Organize a supervised scavenger hunt for food items needed to make a healthy recipe.
- Set up a "nutrition station" staffed by registered dietitian nutritionists who answer questions on nutrition.
- Ask local store manager to run NNM audio PSAs in the store during March.
- Offer a nutrition education session that offers suggestions on "**how to eat healthy on a budget.**"

Return to Top

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