

Valentine Mystery Dinner

Here is your “mystery code” menu for the spaghetti dinner you will be serving.

Noodles – **Tug on My Heart Strings**
Meat Sauce – **Roses are Red**
Shredded Cheese – **Lay on the Charm**
Salad – **Toss the Bouquet**
Dressing – **All Dressed Up**
Bread – **Cloud of Happiness**
Butter – **Melt my Heart**
Fork – **Cupid’s Arrow**
Napkin – **Warm Cuddles**
Toothpick – **“I Pick You!”**
Knife – **Heart Breaker**
Dessert – **My Sweetheart**

Never hosted a mystery dinner before? Here’s how it works!

First, invite as many families as you would like. Let them know that they are coming to your house for a mystery dinner...tell them what time to show up...and don’t tell them any more!

Prepare all of the food before time for your guests to arrive.

Have plenty of serving bowls ready to go. You will need a serving bowl of sauce for each table, a basket of bread for each table, a plate of butter for each table, etc.

Have tables set with a tablecloth and glasses of water (or whatever beverage you plan to serve). Card tables work well for a meal like this.

Have your guests take a seat at a table immediately when they arrive. Do not let them near the kitchen! You don’t want to give away anything about the dinner. If they know you are serving spaghetti, they might be able to decipher the “coded menu”.

As soon as all of your guests are seated, give one menu and a pencil to each group at a table. You may want to explain the rules and details so that they fill out their menu correctly. (It is easier to let a whole table of people fill out one menu together. Then, the servers take a serving bowl of the requested item. But, if you would rather, give one menu to each person and serve each guest individually.)

You and your family will then serve the meal to your guests in three courses. For the first course, fill the guest’s plate with only the items that they marked with a number one. For instance, if they put a number one beside Roses are Red, Melt My Heart, Heart Breaker and All Dressed Up, you will take them a dish of meat sauce, a small dish of butter, a knife and salad dressing. Of course, your guests will not be able to do much with the food from course number one, so after a few minutes, take out the items they marked for course number two. After a short amount of time, serve course number three.

Once all the courses have been served, bring out all the food, or let everyone into the kitchen for a “real meal” spaghetti buffet.

Valentine dinner shopping list:

Spaghetti Noodles

Ingredients for your favorite spaghetti sauce

Meat

Shredded cheddar cheese

Salad fixings

Salad Dressing

French Bread

Butter

Ingredients for the dessert you choose to make

Valentine napkins

Toothpicks

Be sure to have:

Enough card tables and chairs to seat your guests

Tablecloths for each table

Candles for the tables

Any other decorations you might want

Glasses and beverages for each guest

Guest menus copied for each table (or for each individual if that is the way you are going to do it)

Serving trays for your servers.